

PLO Central Committee resumes meet in Damascus

BEIRUT, May 2 (Agencies). — Palestine Liberation Organisation Chief Yasser Arafat went today to Damascus, where tomorrow he will chair the resumed committee meeting on the formation of the PLO's General Council. It was reported here, the committee had started a series of meetings in Damascus Saturday under Mr. Arafat to review Arab developments and the name of the Central Council — a liaison between the executive committee and the Palestine National Council.

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردين تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر في الأردن عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Volume 2, Number 439

AMMAN, TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1977 — JAMADI AL AWAL 15, 1397

Price : 50 fils

King suggests interim U.N. presence as part of M.E. peace accord

HOUSTON, Texas, May 2 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein today suggested an interim United Nations presence in the Middle East as part of a peace agreement to ease the transition to full peace.

Addressing the Houston Chamber of Commerce at a dinner given in his honour by the mayor of the city, King Hussein said peace in the Middle East could come about if Israel were ready to withdraw and recognise the rights of the Palestinian people. He said mutual security guarantees could be part of a peace agreement.

"We welcome the presence of the United Nations in the area for a transitional period" until the final stage of peace is reached, the King said.

He reiterated that the Palestinians should be allowed to set up their own state, join in a federal union with Jordan or exercise their right of self-determination in any other way they see fit.

The Arabs are ready for a just settlement of the Middle East conflict and accept to shoulder the responsibilities attending peace, he added.

King Hussein said that the dangers of war exist hand-in-hand with the possibilities of peace at present.

The King called for private investments in Jordan, saying this government looks on the private sector as a full partner in the country's development effort.

"Jordan is the ideal gateway to one of the richest and most active trade centres in the world ... the Middle East," the King said.

PLO spells out terms for going to Geneva But doubts conference will succeed

BEIRUT, May 2 (R). — The Palestine Liberation Organisation does not believe a Geneva peace conference will achieve anything, according to the head of its Foreign Affairs Department, Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi.

In an interview with the Beirut English-language weekly Monday Morning he said that if the Geneva option were taken it would be more by Arab than Palestinian choice.

"Our own preference is to pursue Middle East settlement efforts through the United Nations in cooperation with all international parties concerned", he added.

Mr. Kaddoumi said the PLO had told U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim that it set five conditions for going to Geneva:

— That a Soviet-American

invitation be sent to the PLO to attend.

— That the Palestinians attend from the first session to the last.

— That they take part in all conference activities.

— That the Palestinian question be listed as a separate agenda item. "We refuse to attend the conference as court witnesses in the Arab-Israeli dispute", he remarked.

— That if the Palestinians attend they will go on the basis of U.N. General Assembly resolution 3236, and not of the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

These resolutions referred to the Palestinians as refugees and demanded secure and recognised borders for all states, including Israel.

"In other words the Palestinians will not attend on the basis of pre-recognition of secure Israeli borders", Monday Morning added.

Mr. Kaddoumi dismissed President Carter's recent call for the creation of a homeland for Palestinian refugees.

"He's talking about a Palestinian refuge, not a Palestinian state", said Mr. Kaddoumi. He added that the PLO would be willing to establish relations with the United States, as with any other country, "regardless of that country's social system, if such relations are based on recognition of us and respect of our national rights".

Mr. Kaddoumi called on President Carter to extend his championship of human rights to the Palestinians.

He urged Mr. Carter to "tackle the human rights problem where it really exists — in the occupied land of Palestine".

"The Palestinians, in their own land, are being treated not as second-class citizens but as a class of untouchables," he said.

Discussing reports of a change in U.S. policy towards the Palestinians, Mr. Kaddoumi said that to be acceptable it would have to be based on U.S. recognition of either the PLO or Palestinian national rights or "the Palestinians' right to establish a sovereign Palestinian state on part of our Palestinian land".

supplement Europe, and Le Monde published today as saying the United States had no intention of intervening militarily in Zaire or for any other country unless U.S. security was directly threatened.

But Washington approved of the help given by Egypt, Morocco and France to Zairese President.

The president said: "We are at present averse to military engagement in foreign countries. We are suffering, or we are hesitating, from the experience we had in Vietnam. It would not be possible for the American people to support American participation in an expeditionary corps in the Shaba region of Zaire," Mr. Carter said.

In Kinshasa, Zaire suspended diplomatic relations with East Germany today, accusing the communist state of supplying arms to anti-government rebels in what amounted to "a situation of undeclared war". The official news agency AZAP reported meanwhile that there were "serious engagements" in Shaba yesterday with the involvement in direct combat for the first time of the Moroccans.

1 killed, 8 wounded in new clashes in Punjab

ISLAMABAD, May 2 (R). — At least one person was reported killed today and eight, including six policemen, were wounded when rival political supporters clashed in the central Punjab city of Khanewal after more than a week of comparative calm in Pakistan.

Reliable sources said the casualties occurred during a confrontation between marchers supporting the opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) and supporters of the ruling

Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The sources said a PNA student leader was shot dead and six police and two federal security force officers received bullet wounds when they were caught in a cross-fire while trying to separate the two groups.

Other unconfirmed reports said four people had died. The violence in Khanewal, about 300 kms south of Islamabad, was the worst since martial law was imposed in the three major cities of Karachi, Lahore and Hyderabad 11 days ago to halt street fighting.

Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto appeared to have brought the tense situation under control when police contained the opposition's attempt at large-scale demonstrations in Rawalpindi at the weekend.

Further progress was also indicated today in protracted manoeuvring for a political dialogue between the PNA and Mr. Bhutto which could result in a compromise settlement to the two-month old crisis, touched off by opposition charges that a general election two months ago was rigged.

Mr. Bhutto was reported to have been in touch with Maulana Mufi Mahmud, jailed veteran leader of the nine-party alliance, who was moved yesterday to Rawalpindi's military hospital suffering from a worsening of his diabetes condition and gangrene in the toes of one foot.

The Pir of Pagaro, acting president of the PNA and its only important figure who has not been detained, said he understood there had been a communication in writing from Mr. Bhutto to Maulana Mufi.



MAY DAY RALLY — An unidentified gunman shoots at a group of reportedly Marxist youths who earlier sprayed the crowd at a May Day rally in Istanbul, Sunday, with automatic gunfire.

Turkey opens inquiry into bloody May Day

ISTANBUL, May 2 (R). — Two Turkish ministers flew here today to open an inquiry into a bloody May Day rally yesterday which claimed at least 38 lives.

This ancient city, divided between Europe and Asia by the Bosphorus Strait, was quiet today, but many residents feared more violence in the run-up to a general election set for June 5.

Police today put the official casualty toll at 38 dead and about 200 wounded. Some 400 other people were detained, and many were under intensive questioning today.

The rally of about 150,000 people began peacefully in sprawling Taksim Square, but ultra-leftists being kept on the fringe of the gathering clashed with the leftwing trade unionists who organised it.

Volleys of sniper fire from nearby buildings sent the crowd scurrying and fighting raged for two hours until specially summoned paramilitary forces brought the situation under control.

Interior Minister Sabahattin Ozbek and justice Minister Zeyyad Baykara, both independents named under constitutional requirements to these posts during the election campaign period, were due to meet city officials later today.

Among the officials were the governor of Istanbul, the police chief and the commander of the paramilitary national gendarmery.

Peres: Overall Mideast settlement should not be Israel's only goal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 2 (R). — Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday an overall settlement of the Middle East conflict should not be the only goal of Israeli policy.

Cabinet sources said he told his government colleague that by sticking to a policy of an overall settlement the situation could deteriorate and cause friction with Israel's friends.

The sources said Mr. Peres, who is also defence minister, was replying to a question by

Mr. Peres said it was too early to speak about the future and suggested a political debate should wait until a new government was formed after this month's general election.

In negotiations under the shuttle diplomacy of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Israel had followed a step-by-step policy towards a solution of the Middle East conflict.

Mr. Peres said that, according to reports he had received from Washington, there was no erosion in the U.S. position in four main areas:

He listed them as non-inclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organisation at a resumed Geneva peace conference, opposition to a separate Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank, the definition of peace, and the principle of not forcing an imposed settlement by outside powers.

Kreisky due to arrive in Cairo next Friday

CAIRO, May 2 (R). — Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky is due to arrive here on Friday for talks with President Anwar Sadat on the Middle East crisis, the official Middle East News Agency reported today. The two leaders will also discuss mutual relations between the two countries, the agency added.

West Bank youth mount new protest against settlement

NABLUS, May 2 (R). — Arab youths hurled stones and hurled tyres in the main square of this Arab town today in protest at Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Israeli troops rushed to the scene but did not intervene. The youths dispersed peacefully later.

In another demonstration in nearby Qalqilya, Palestinian refugee camp youths blocked the Jerusalem-Ramallah road, but were dispersed without incident by Israeli troops.

There have been many demonstrations in recent weeks against Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. These have been fuelled by the Jewish extremist Gush Emunim (Faith Bloc) which believes in the right of Jews to all of biblical Israel and has made several unauthorised attempts to settle new areas.

Members of Gush Emunim began to put up a new settlement yesterday at a short distance across the pre-1967 border, arriving in the early morning in lorries at the strategic Mas'ha hilltop, about 10 kms. across the former line.

The group broke out into song and dance, then began to unload building supplies at an abandoned Jordanian police post, which will house the first settlers.

A spokesman for the group said quarters for 15 families will be built in the first phase, although some 2,000 members were waiting to join as soon as funds were found to put up additional houses.

A cabinet committee headed by Minister Without Portfolio, Israel Galili, approved establishment of the settlement.

Other attempts by Gush Emunim to put up settlements near Nablus and Jericho, which were not authorised by the government, sparked protest demonstrations.

The Israelis have allowed about two dozen settlements to go up in areas they deem "essential to national defence".

In a separate development, the Israeli military authorities banned militant Rabbi Meir Kahane, from visiting occupied towns in the West Bank.

This presence would provoke a public disturbance and he has been informed that he will not be permitted in the area, a military spokesman announced.

The rabbi, who heads the militant American Jewish Defence League and is running for a seat in the Knesset in the May 17 general elections, drew a strong protest demonstration last month when he visited Nablus.

Rabbi Kahane set up his own political party whose platform is based on a refusal to withdraw from the West Bank.

He has also called on Israelis to join in a civil disobedience campaign should the government decide to return any of the lands.

EEC officials admit uranium lost despite security procedures

BRUSSELS, May 2 (Agencies). — Embarrassed Common Market officials admitted today that despite their control procedures, 200 tonnes of uranium and the cargo vessel carrying the shipment disappeared without trace on the high seas more than eight years ago.

The admission adds a new element to the mystery surrounding the cargo which disappeared in November 1968 while on its way from Antwerp to Genoa in Italy.

U.S. congressional adviser Paul Leventhal told an anti-nuclear conference in Austria last week the missing uranium was assumed to have been unloaded in Israel. But the allegation has been denied by the Israel Atomic Energy Commission.

A spokesman for the EEC Commission said today that Euratom, the Common Market's atomic energy agency, had carried out routine control procedures on the shipment and had mounted a "deep going" investigation after the disappearance had been reported.

The spokesman refused to disclose the results of the investigation or to comment on reports circulating here that its findings led to the resignation of two top Euratom officials the following year.

According to informed sources, the two officials who resigned in 1969 following the investigation were the director of the Euratom security service and its supply chief. Both were Italians.

The spokesman said the uranium, which was being shipped from a depot in West Germany to Italy via the ports of Rotterdam and Antwerp, was virtually in its raw state and unsuitable for making an explosive device in that form.

Unformed sources here said the uranium, which came from South Africa, probably turned up in Israel.

"It is an exploit which more than matches the Cherbourg gun-boat incident", one source said. This is a reference to the seizure in 1969 by Israelis of five gunboats from Cherbourg harbour ordered by Israel but blocked there because of a French embargo.

The spokesman said that since the disappearance of the uranium, Euratom control procedures had been considerably tightened up.

But he added to speculation here that the whole operation

200 Spaniards injured in May Day violence

MADRID, May 2 (R). — Spain today counted the cost of the worst street violence for months with only six weeks to go before the first free elections for 40 years.

Observers suggested the severity of police action yesterday against unauthorised May Day demonstrations could lose the government the support of many moderate Spaniards.

Labour sources said some 200 people were injured and at least 50 arrested as riot police fired rubber bullets, tear gas and smoke bombs.

Eyewitnesses said demonstrators were beaten to the ground and often lashed by the grey-uniformed riot forces.

Police helicopters scoured the capital looking for demonstrators as tens of thousands of workers took to the streets in response to a call from the newly-legalised leftwing-trade unions.

Police sources said at least one petrol bomb was thrown at a police jeep and some shots were fired from a passing car but no one was hurt.

In Bilbao, several thousand demonstrators were dispersed by rubber bullets and police charges. About 15 were reported injured.

In Barcelona, hundreds of demonstrators ran through the city, setting up barricades before being cleared by police.

Demonstrations by several hundred people in the Mediterranean port of Valencia were also broken up by police.

The Socialist General Workers Union (UGT) said it would protest against the police action to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva.

The violence flared as Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez arranged a televised address in which he is expected to announce he will test his popularity by standing as a candidate in the June 15 elections.

Sadat to send pilots to help Zairese troops

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, May 2 (R). — Egypt, seriously concerned about growing Soviet influence in Africa, is to send six fighter pilots to help fight the invasion in Zaire.

President Anwar Sadat, speaking at a May Day rally here yesterday, accused the Soviet Union of being behind the invasion. President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire has said the insurgents come from Angola with the connivance of the Marxist rulers there and their Soviet and Cuban backers. The three countries have denied involvement.

He told some 25,000 cheering workers that he had informed Zaire's President Mobutu that Egypt would help him to operate his air force just as it had helped Nigeria with pilots ten years ago during the Biafran civil war.

The Egyptian leader gave no details on how many pilots would be sent to Zaire. He also told President Mobutu he could not send troops as Egypt was still at war with Israel.

President Sadat described the invasion of Zaire as a "direct threat to Sudan, Egypt and the resources of the Nile..." part of the Nile begins in Zaire, which lies some 5,000 kms away.

His 90-minute speech was devoted almost exclusively to attacking Moscow.

Egypt has voiced increasing concern over Soviet activities in Africa, and particularly the Libyan Jamahiriyah (formerly Libya) and Ethiopia's growing ties with Moscow.

The Egyptian press has warned of what the Soviets called attempts at an encirclement of Egypt and observers believed it was this concern which prompted President Sadat to commit Egypt militarily to the war in Zaire.

In Paris, U.S. President Carter was quoted today in an interview with the economic

Palestinians reject limit on number of armed men in Lebanon

BEIRUT, May 2 (R). — Palestinian commandos will not accept Lebanese demands that the number of armed men in refugee camps be limited to seven per thousand inhabitants, according to a commando spokesman.

This was the major point of disagreement in an otherwise successful two-hour meeting between President Elias Sarkis and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat on Friday.

A PLO spokesman said Mr. Arafat was satisfied with the meeting and added that there was no longer any suggestion from the Lebanese side that the number of Palestinians in the country should be reduced.

The official refugee population of the three surviving camps in Beirut is less than 10,000, although the real figure is much higher.

The PLO spokesman remarked that the commandos had been fighting for the past 13 years in order to hand their last weapons in a move which would effectively disarm them completely.

He added that it was hoped a compromise could be reached later on the question of placing a limit on the number of armed men.

In return for President Sarkis dropping the question of reducing the number of Palestinian refugees here the PLO had agreed that it was Lebanon's right to control who entered and left the country.

This was why there was no protest over the refusal on Friday to allow 27 Palestinians to enter the country after they fled here from East Germany, the PLO spokesman said.

In a separate development, tens of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians yesterday took

part in a May Day rally in honour of assassinated leftist leader Kamal Juhaiti.

The day of mourning was marred by the deaths of three men fired on at a Syrian army checkpoint, and the discovery of the bodies of two other gunshot victims.

Troops of the Arab peace-keeping force opened fire on a car which failed to stop at a checkpoint only a few kilometres from the site of the rally.

All five occupants were wounded, according to a statement issued by the Arab force. Two of them died on their way to hospital and a third was killed when a grenade fell from his pocket there, a hospital spokesman said.

The shooting took place on a highway where the Syrian army checkpoint often builds long queues of cars. It did not appear to have any political significance.

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

Managing Editor: Jassab Tishmji

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Board of Directors: Juma'a Hamad, Mohammad Ahmad, Mahmood Al Kayed

Responsible Editor: Mahmoud Ahmad

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Ethiopia shows interest in closer ties with USSR

NAIROBI, May 2 (R). — Ethiopia's head of state, Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile-Mariam, pays his first official visit to the Soviet Union early next month in a quest for closer ties with the communist world.

Moscow Radio announced the visit. Ethiopia's Marxist military rulers last week closed down the American military mission which had long symbolised the United States position as the country's main arms supplier.

But if the Soviet Union becomes involved in helping Ethiopia, it has a difficult task, the military rulers in Addis Ababa are fighting secessionist guerrillas in Ethiopia's Red Sea Province of Eritrea and face other problems.

It will be the young Ethiopian leader's first trip abroad since he became head of state after a shooting fray on Feb. 3 at the headquarters of the ruling Military Council, the Dergue, which he leads.

Observers interpret the increasing pace of Ethiopia's moves towards the Soviet Union as pressing military problems in the north of the country, particularly in Eritrea, and to the political influence of a French-educated Ethiopian Marxist, Mr. Ato Haile Fide.

Mr. Ato Haile leads the civilian Politburo known as the Provisional Office for Mass Organizational Affairs. He was in China recently as part of an official delegation from the Dergue, and the only trip abroad which Col. Mengistu is known to have made since the 1974 revolution against the late Emperor Haile Selassie was a secret visit to Peking.

But informed sources believe Mr. Ato Haile and Col. Mengistu prefer the Soviet brand of communism, and that Ethiopia's foreign and military policies are leaning in that direction.

Numerous official delegations from Eastern Europe visited Ethiopia after the Feb. 3 "coup", and Cuban leader Fidel Castro was there in March.

Informed sources said the question of Cuban military help for Ethiopian soldiers -- facing serious threats from various anti-government groups -- was discussed at meetings between Dr. Castro and Col. Mengistu.

No one has yet reported seeing any Cuban soldiers, but there has been considerable speculation in Addis Ababa that either troops or military advisers are on their way to Ethiopia.

More than 30 Soviet-built tanks, together with 40 armoured personnel carriers and six heavy anti-aircraft guns, were delivered to Ethiopia early in April, according to reliable sources in Addis Ababa.

They came from Adeo across the Red Sea, but the sources said there was no doubt they were delivered with at least the consent of the Soviet Union.

The tanks are old model T-34s. Experts believe such tanks would be more likely to be deployed in the southeast, where Ethiopia has a territorial dispute with Soviet-backed Somalia, than in the north where guerrillas of the Eritrean independence movements and the rightwing Ethiopian Democratic Union (EDU) make effective use of the rough terrain.

Ethiopia's quest for closer ties with the Soviet Bloc was seen as one of the two main factors behind the Dergue's decision to close down the United States' military mission last week.

The other factor was America's own doubts about supporting a government which continually attacks Western "imperialism" and which is accused of violating human rights.

But observers said most of the impetus for seeking "solidarity" with communist countries appears to have come from Ethiopia itself, rather than from the Eastern European states.

It is a standing joke among

Western diplomats in Addis Ababa that all that most of the communist countries have given are piles of books on communist ideology.

The Soviet Union's close links with Somalia might have made Moscow cautious of any sudden decision to rush into the complex problems of Ethiopia. Observers suggested that a complete split by Ethiopia from the military alliance with the U.S. may have been a precondition for help.

Some analysts contend that Somalia is turning away from the Soviet Union, with an eye on conservative Arab states' aid. Others argue that the Soviet Union will be taking on a great many problems in Ethiopia before it reaps any benefits.

Ethiopia controls very little of its Red Sea coastline, which would be of prime interest to the Soviet Union -- especially if Somalia drifts away from Moscow's influence.

If any major Soviet-inspired push were made against the Eritrean guerrillas or the EDU, then Sudan, which is about to receive U.S. military help, might be tempted to step up its assistance to the anti-Dergue forces.

Ethiopia has already accused Sudan of "aggression" and "violation of its territory," but has also noted that Sudan has a military pact with Egypt.

In the extremely fluid situation in the horn of Africa and its environs, Ethiopia faces problems on all sides. If the Soviet Union has decided to protect it, analysts argue that this can be nothing but a very big job.

May Day: Violent demonstrations in West, official parades in East

REUTERS, May 2 — At least 32 people died in Istanbul yesterday in the worst outbreak of May Day violence in cities of both the East and West.

Extreme leftists fought gun battles with trade unionists and police in the heart of the Turkish city and police said that apart from the 32 dead about 200 people were reported wounded.

In Madrid, Rome and Athens police used tear gas, smoke bombs and rubber bullets to break up demonstrations on this international day of the workers.

First fights broke out in Tel Aviv yesterday when rightwing demonstrators clashed with about 3,000 Israeli Communist Party supporters holding a May Day rally.

The fights erupted when about 15 members of the rightwing Betar Youth Movement and followers of Rabbi Meir Kahana, founder of the militant Jewish Defence League, started to argue with Jewish and Arab May Day demonstrators.

Five of the rightwing group were detained by police and later released.

And in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo police shot and wounded about 30 people during clashes between rival political groups heading for May Day rallies.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel summoned his cabinet into emergency session in Ankara to discuss the bloody gunfights in Istanbul which flared when ultra-leftists opened fire on unionists staging a 150,000-strong rally in Taksim Square.

The Communist World preferred its traditional May Day observance of officially staged de-

monstrations contrasting the virtues of communism with the evils of capitalism.

In Moscow, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and other Kremlin leaders stood on the balcony of the Lenin mausoleum overlooking Red Square to watch the passing pageant.

In Peking, on the other side of communism's ideological divide, the celebrations were turned into a propaganda spectacle lauding Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and his victory over radical opponents.

Violence also flared halfway round the world in Manila where police used batons and fire-hoses to chase away about 100 youths who wanted to demonstrate against martial law.

The Chinese celebrations highlighted the ascendance of Chairman Hua and the eclipse of Mme. Chiang Ching, the disgraced widow of Mao Tse-tung.

Last year Mme. Chiang stole the May Day spotlight, but yesterday crowds thronging Peking parks cheered her downfall last October with her fellow "gang of four" radicals.

Chinese leaders traditionally mingle with the masses on May Day and most members of the Politburo turned up in the parks. Peking's Mayor Wu Teh, who was criticised in wall posters here last January, headed the official party at one open-air concert.

There was more emphasis on industrial and agricultural production with new side shows displaying ingenious working models of communes and factories.

The concert performances were noticeably more relaxed and varied following the purging of Mme. Chiang Ching,

who laid down strict, puritanical guidelines for the performing arts. Old costumes and dances were evident in this time that have not been seen for years.

The Moscow parade passed without a speech from any member of the ruling Politburo for the fourth year in succession. Instead, a voice proclaimed over loudspeakers the "day of international workers' solidarity in the struggle against imperialism and for peace, democracy and socialism."

East Germany changed its May Day parade procedure by leaving out the military rumble of rockets, tanks and artillery for the first time in over 20 years.

The East Germans had been the only Soviet Bloc state to continue the display of military hardware after 1968. The change was seen as a move to present a more peaceful international image.

Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak took the opportunity to rebuke what he called a "Western anti-socialist slander campaign."

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile-Mariam reserved his condemnation for Sudan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He said they were "fostering invasion plans against our country."

Workers in other parts of the world were almost deserted and holiday resorts crowded as Yugoslavs enjoyed picnics and excursions.

In Bangkok, Thai workers attended religious ceremonies and gave food to Buddhist monks. The government has banned rallies there since martial law was proclaimed after a military coup last October.

A monumental disservice

The latest revelations concerning the disappearance of 200 tons of uranium, which has been shrouded in a veil of mystery for nine years, would indicate that the affair in fact boils down to the clandestine sale of fissionable material by South Africa to Israel.

If such is indeed the case, the desire for secrecy is not surprising. Both countries have come in for their due share of criticism and they are not eager to publicise a transaction that will not reflect credit on either.

Yet even if the assumed hijack is spurious, the menace born by the affair is none the less real.

We maintain that the sale of uranium to Israel was a grave disservice to that country. It will heighten not Israel's security but its insecurity and that of the Middle East as a whole. It will set this volatile region of the globe on an armaments race that could transform the entire area into a nuclear powder keg.

Those who have the best interests of Israel at heart should lead it on the road to peace, not reinforce its fortress mentality.

So long as Israel seeks security through more sophisticated armament and through intervention in south Lebanon rather than through a serious approach to peace, so long as its ultimate concern is "secure borders" and not mutually recognised borders, then that country is going to go on developing its nuclear technology and set off on the quest for the ultimate, doomsday weapon.

Israel has said that it would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. The revelation of this nine-year old transaction nevertheless lends credence to a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency revelation that Israel is believed to be in possession of 15 to 20 atomic bombs ready for use.

This will make Israel more obstinate, not more reasonable, more willing to trust in its invulnerability, but only by making the stakes much higher in a crazy poker game.

This is a severe blow to those who are looking forward to the advent of the long awaited peace in the Middle East.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

One of the Jordanian dailies commented in its Sunday editorial on the many scandals which are presently being uncovered in Israel. The two other dailies discussed Labour Day.

AL RA'I, wondered about the reasons behind the uncovering of scandals in Israel, in particular at such a time when the peace efforts are underway. The paper, trying to give an answer, said that the Arabs have been accustomed when dealing with Israel to take into consideration two facts: The first being that the interests of the Zionist movement represented by the Israeli state are always placed above all others. Thus Ben Gurion sacrificed his Minister Lavon and later the Labour Party its leader Ben Gurion.

Such examples confirmed by Rabin's resignation are indicators that Israeli policy is preparing the ground for Israel's extremists who are calling for more expansion and new wars.

The second fact is that Israel has always believed that "the end justifies the means."

These two factors, well known by the Arabs, should make them aware of the dangerous and delicate situation of this present stage, where talks on a just and peaceful settlement are being resisted by Israel which is trying to use every means in its possession to prevent its advent, the paper concluded.

AL DUSTOUR, said that for

Mao's book breaks all publishing records in China

PEKING, May 2 (AFP). — All publishing records have been broken in China last month with the distribution and sale in two weeks of 28 million copies of the Fifth Volume of the late Chairman Mao's Selected Works.

The anticipated final print run should be around 200 million copies in pocket, cloth-bound and luxury hard-backed editions.

According to the official press, the first printing was expected to be 15 million copies.

The official party newspaper People's Daily said the surplus was the result of the "assiduous work day and night by the printers and the efforts of the workers responsible for distribution, who strove by all means to satisfy the needs of the broad popular masses of workers, peasants and soldiers."

It added that the distribution of 28 million copies in such a short time was "unprecedented in publishing and distributing history in our country."

Distribution of the Fifth Volume of Mao's works, which covers the period from 1949 to 1957, began on April 15. On that day people rushed to bookshops throughout the country, notably in Peking and Shanghai.

The distribution of the book is accompanied by a vast campaign on the study of Mao Tse-tung's works in all production units in the country.

The People's Daily illustrated the surpassing of the Original print target with the example of Kiangsu (Nankin) province, where printing plants produced 1,040,000 copies instead of the allotted share of 350,000.

The party newspaper referred to the feats accomplished by the distribution workers, notably in distant and wild parts of the country such as Singkiang and Tibet.

The publication of Volume Five of Mao's Selected Works was one of the first decisions of his successor, Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, after the dismissal of the "Gang of four" in October last year.

New ways to enforce humane family-planning schemes

India's sterilisation programme, which did much to bring down Mrs. Gandhi's government, focuses attention on family-planning and the way it is approached. Dr. Fred Sai, of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, says family-planning organisations have an important new role to play -- they must try to discourage governments from introducing increasingly harsh methods to enforce a slow-down in the growth rate of their populations.

By Mike Muller

LONDON (Gemin) — Voluntary family-planning organisations have an important new role now that their views have been generally accepted -- they must try to discourage governments which are using increasingly harsh methods to enforce a slow down in the growth of their populations.

That is the view of Dr. Fred Sai, Assistant Secretary General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, which coordinates the work of voluntary family-planning organisations in 91 countries.

Dr. Sai was talking to me about the background to a new booklet "Some Ethical Issues in Family Planning" just published by the IPPF. In it he deals with some of the attacks that have been made on the activities of family-planning organisations -- ranging from the suggestion that IPPF itself organises programmes of enforced sterilisation to allegations that it is committing genocide and working in league with U.S. multinational corporations to exploit developing countries.

He believes that these attacks are moderating, largely as a belated result of the Bucharest population conference. It is now out of fashion to attack the idea of family-planning itself, he says. Planning families is now accepted to be as valid as planning any other area of development. What is at issue however is the way in which family-planning is approached. And that is his present concern.

In his booklet, he runs through some of the old areas of argument. Abortion is one ever contentious issue.

"As a federation, IPPF does not advocate or promote abortion," he writes. "But it recognises that all over the world abortions occur, whether legally or illegally. Where national laws permit, the family-planning organisations take their part in abortion programmes." He warns that any attempt to make the federation condemn abortion completely would be vehemently opposed and draws attention to the plight of women where abortion is not allowed.

"Where abortions are illegal the handling and eventual treatment of abortees is a human and medical problem. In no other medical condition is a patient made to feel so humiliated and the IPPF considers this to be unethical," he says.

He also deals with the problem of testing new contraceptives -- an important issue since the early years of family-planning were dogged by allegations that poor Third World and American women were being used as guinea pigs. The problem has eased he feels, largely because there are no major advances expected in family planning techniques.

The new drugs that are being developed are intended to reduce the risk of aggravating heart conditions. Since these affect mainly women in rich countries, there is not much point in testing them in poor countries.

"The companies are forced to test in areas where they can really detect these differences so they usually tested them all in European or American markets," says Dr. Sai.

What he sees as the most controversial current issue however is the "discriminative method." It uses no pills or devices. Rather, a range of tax and administrative measures is introduced to discourage families from having more than the desired number of children. Singapore and India have already initiated such policies with discrimination in

tax allowances, housing and jobs against families which have too many children.

Dr. Sai is unhappy about this trend. He feels that the children of irresponsible families are likely to be hurt more than their parents. But in areas where population pressure is becoming acute, he thinks discriminative measures will continue to spread, particularly in southeast Asia. He also foresees that some of the administrative measures will hit families with no choice in the matter -- those whose children have already been born.

"I take issue with any measures made retroactively," says Dr. Sai. "If a couple did not have the knowledge or the

means to practice contraception, laws made after they have had their family affecting the life style of the family cannot be justified."

This highlights the new role which family-planning organisations must adopt -- spokesmen for the minority.

"Since governments are now looking at the larger issues of population and the demographic pressures, one of the roles of agencies like the IPPF is to be acutely aware of the side issues and about the people who are likely to be caught in the vice. We have to be their advocates and their support, so that they don't get lost in overall concern for the major problem," Dr. Sai concludes.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 5 & 6	5:20 Reportage
6:00 Quran	Channel 5
6:05 Cartoons	7:30 News in Hebrew
6:30 Swiss Family Robinson	7:45 Varieties
8:00 News in Arabic	8:30 Phylis
Channel 3	9:10 Rich man, poor man
7:30 Arts and hobbies	10:00 News in English
8:30 Arabic series	10:15 Gibberville
7:00 Morning melodies	10:00 Old favourites
7:30 News	10:20 Easy listening
7:40 News reports	17:00 Mail bag
8:00 Sign off	17:45 Pop session
12:00 Pop session	18:00 News summary
13:00 News summary	18:05 Arabs in history
13:05 Pop session	18:30 Sing it again
14:00 News	18:10 News reports
14:10 Radio magazine	19:30 Sign off
14:30 Special feature	19:00 News
15:00 Concert hour	

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Fawzi (25024)
Amman:	Habayeb (42910)
Youssef Smur (63254)	Irbid:
Abdul Salam Abu Awad (38073)	Baahar
Irbid:	Zarqa:
Mouanes Beirut (3585)	Amal
Pharmacies:	Taxi:
Amman:	Talal (25021)
Hindi (24422)	Tower (21025)
Jaafari (72873)	Khayam (41541)
	Naida (39003)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:	Departures:
6:30 Bangkok, Bahrain	6:20 Aqaba
6:40 Dubai, Abu Dhabi	6:30 Beirut
6:10 Aqaba	7:30 London
6:10 Beirut	8:45 Beirut (MEA)
11:15 Doha, Kuwait (BA)	9:30 Frankfurt
11:45 Kuwait (KAC)	9:35 Frankfurt
17:45 Copenhagen, Jena	11:45 Athens, (GA)
18:15 Madrid, Athens	12:15 London (BA)
18:30 Brussels, Rome	12:45 Kuwait (KAC)
19:30 Beirut (MEA)	19:45 Cairo
20:00 Amsterdam, Athens	23:00 Jeddah
20:15 Frankfurt	23:30 Abu Dhabi
20:30 Paris	24:00 Kuwait
21:00 London	24:00 Bahrain, Bangkok
00:30 Rome (Alitalia)	01:15 Dubai (Ajtalla)
01:30 Cairo	

BBC RADIO

08:00 News: 24 hours	14:30 Cricket
08:30 Sarah Ward	15:00 Radio Newcastle
09:00 Outlook	15:15 Outlook
09:45 The World Today	16:00 News: Commentary
09:50 News: Press Review	16:15 Talking about Music
09:55 The World Today	16:45 The World Today
09:55 News: 24 hours	17:00 News
07:00 Sarah Ward	17:00 Books and Writers
07:45 Portraits from the Past	17:00 Take One
08:00 News	17:30 Sports Round-up
08:15 Sport Story	17:45 News: News about Britain
08:20 Talking about Music	18:15 Radio Newcastle
08:30 News: U.K. Press Review	18:30 The Farming World
09:00 The World Today	18:30 Outlook: News Summary
09:45 Look Ahead	19:42 Stock Market Report
10:15 Ulster 77	19:45 The Beat is Black
10:30 Five Stations to Istanbul	20:00 News: 24 hours
11:00 News: News about Britain	20:30 The Pleasure's Yours
11:15 Talkabout	21:00 Ulster 77
11:30 Famous Yesterday	21:15 Talkabout
11:30 Sports International	21:30 Armchair Travels
12:00 Radio Newcastle	22:45 News: The World Today
12:15 Cricket	22:25 Financial News
12:45 Sports Round-up	22:35 ARIA
13:00 News: 24 hours	22:45 Sports Round-up
13:30 In Our Time 1945-1956	23:00 News: Commentary
14:15 Report on Religion	23:15 Nature Notebook

VOICE OF AMERICA

03:00 The Breakfast Show	18:00 Special English, News, Feature: Science in the News, News Summary
06:30 G.M.T.: News, 18:20 Now Music USA	19:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis
06:30 Regional and Topical News Summary, 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT: 19:20 VOA Magazine, American Science, Cultural, Letters	20:00 Special English, News, Analysis, 20:15 Music USA (Jazz), 21:00 VOA World Report
06:30 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Summary	21:30 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Summary
17:30 Dataline	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Fire headquarters	22900
First aid, fire, police	26281-2
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	5711-3
Municipal water service (emergency)	5711-3
Police headquarters	26141
Najdah, roving patrol rescue police, (Radio) spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	21111, 37777
Airport information (AIA)	52285
American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 61220
British Council	26147-8
French Cultural Centre	37888
Goethe Institute	41888
Soviet Cultural Centre	44003
Amman Municipal Library	26111

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Prince Hassan tells May Day seminar Workers to gain from new social experiment

AMMAN (JNA). — The country's workers are in for greater benefits from Jordan's social experiment, His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, told participants in an open seminar by the General Union of Workers' Federations for May Day Sunday.

PRINCE MOHAMMAD VISITS BRAZIL

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 2 (R). — His Highness Prince Mohammad arrived here yesterday for a 10 day visit, during which he will visit several industrial projects and have talks with Brazilian businessmen.

The prince will visit Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Brasilia, Salvador, Manaus and Fortaleza.

New Gulf telephone link opens soon

AMMAN (Agencies). — A new telephone link will soon be inaugurated between Jordan and the Gulf states of Ras Al Khaima, Minister of Communications Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh announced Sunday after a visit to the emirate to attend the opening of a new satellite station there.

He stated that this line will be routed via the ground station in Syria, since Jordan's own station has no links with the Intelsat communications satellite located over the Indian Ocean.

The construction of a second station by 1979 will ensure a direct link via the Indian Ocean, he added.

During his stay in Ras Al Khaima, he discussed with his Gulf counterparts ways of developing telephone communications.

He also reviewed preliminary steps to implement an Arab artificial satellite project, which would ensure speedy and highly effective telephone communications, in addition to educational and cultural services, for all the Arab countries.

All sectors, the prince said, are obliged to share in economic development, in particular those involved in implementing projects in the five-year plan. Prince Hassan concluded by saluting workers of both sexes and called for a second and similar meeting to be held next week to continue discussion of the two working papers submitted by the General Union of the social security project and the labour law.

A number of speakers took the floor at the opening of the seminar to discuss the social security project. Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni said the draft would be submitted for a second reading and discussion by the various workers' associations.

The seminar was attended by a number of ministers, the secretary general of the General Union and representatives of various workers unions.

PRINCE HASSAN TOURS LOCAL INDUSTRIES

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, Monday called for the encouragement of local industries and urged the various government departments and investment funds to provide them with the necessary funds and facilities.

Prince Hassan, who was speaking during a tour of industries established in Russeifa, Abu Alanda, Madaba and Suweilah, stressed the need for stronger interaction between government bodies and the industrial sector.

He also called for a meeting of industrialists and government officials to discuss the problems facing Jordanian industry and to find appropriate solutions.

The Crown Prince met with officials of these industries and discussed their demands. He was accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the ministers of Industry and Commerce and Finance and a number of other officials.

French team due here for agricultural talks

AMMAN (J.T.). — A delegation of senior French officials and experts from the agricultural, hydrology and finance sectors will pay a two-day exploratory visit to Jordan next week for talks on possible French participation in Jordanian agricultural projects within the five-year plan.

The 14-man delegation will primarily look into Jordanian plans for projects in irrigated agriculture in the Jordan Valley, but will also discuss possibilities of French financial and technical participation in livestock schemes, rainfed agricultural projects and water development plans in general.

The delegation includes senior officials from French state organisations in the agricultural field, private company executives and figures from the financial world.

One of the key areas of discussion will be the opportunities for French financial aid, largely in the form of long-term loans, to back up whatever French technical expertise may be contracted for Jordanian projects.

A French consulting engineering company is already drawing up plans to pipe drinking water to Amman from the King Talal Dam.

The French delegation will hold talks here with top Jordanian officials as well as private sector representatives.

The visit to Jordan is part of a Middle East tour that will also take in Syria and the UAE emirate of Ras Al Khaima.

EEC, Jordan start financial aid talks

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan and the European Economic Community (EEC) started a series of meetings here Monday to discuss aid for development projects under the bilateral agreement concluded four months ago.

The Jordanian team, led by Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Najmeddine Dajani, reviewed the projects for which financial help is needed.

These include a project to supply Amman with water from the King Talal Dam, the establishment of medium and small industries through the Industrial Development Bank, vocational and technical training schemes, Abu Nseir housing project, the purchase of diesel engines for the transportation of phosphates and a project to supply Irbid with water from the Yarmouk River.

The two sides will hold meetings at a number of ministries to obtain information about the relevant projects. The EEC delegation and the Jordanian side will then prepare a list of priorities and finalise the agreement.

JORDAN FETES KING HUSSEIN'S ASSUMPTION OF POWER

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan Sunday celebrated the 24th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of constitutional power.

The Royal Hashemite Court received a flow of cables of good wishes and congratulations from top government officials, the Armed Forces, the Public Security Department and representatives of various official and public bodies.

Euro-Arab meet starts

DAMASCUS, May 2 (R). — Parliamentarians from several nations began a series of meetings here today to prepare for an Arab-European parliamentary dialogue in Luxembourg on June 30.

Mr. Bahjat Al Talhouni, Speaker of the Upper House and President of the Arab Parliamentary Union, said the Luxembourg talks were aimed at developing friendship and cooperation between the two communities.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	589.0	575.0
U.S. dollar	330.0	332.0
German mark	139.7	140.1
French franc	65.7	67.0
Swiss franc	131.3	131.7
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.4	37.6
Saudi riyal	93.4	93.8
Lebanese pound	108.7	109.2
Syrian pound	80.8	81.0
Iraqi dinar	945.0	950.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1140.0	1152.0
Egyptian pound	460.0	470.0
Libyan dinar	810.0	820.0
UAE dirham	84.5	85.2

Japanese company to install 5 exchanges

AMMAN (J.T.). — Japan is to participate for the first time in the development of Jordan's telephone system after Minister of Communications Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh signed a JD 10 million contract with a Japanese firm Monday for the installation of five automatic telephone exchanges.

The new exchanges, to be completed within two years by Nissbo-Iwai, will have an initial capacity of 18,000 lines and a maximum capacity of 45,000 lines.

The five exchanges will supply Wadi Seer with 3,000 lines (and a possible 10,000); Marka 4,000 (10,000); Suweilah 5,000 (10,000); Irbid 5,000 (10,000); and Karak 1,000 (5,000).

The supply, installation and maintenance of the new systems will be carried out as a joint venture by Nissbo-Iwai, Fujitsu and Furukawa in cooperation with other Japanese local firms. Work will begin immediately.

Mr. Al Rawabdeh and Director-General of Telecommunications Mohammad Shahed Ismail represented the Jordanian government, while Mr. M. Shimada, Director of Nissbo-Iwai, represented the Japanese firms.

"In the telecommunications field this is the first project we have undertaken with the Japanese. We hope this project will herald better relations between Jordan and Japan," Mr. Al Rawabdeh said before the signing ceremony.

Civil defence head returns from Syria

AMMAN (R). — Civil defence head Maj-Gen. Khaled Al Tarawneh returned here Sunday from a week's visit to Syria, where he discussed strengthening cooperation between the two countries' civil defence establishments.

Gen. Tarawneh said the two sides agreed to take joint measures to unify civil defence regulations and training courses as part of a plan to integrate the two countries.

IDB APPROVES INCOME BOOST

AMMAN (JNA). — The General Assembly of the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) Monday approved an increase of the bank's capital from JD 3 million to JD 6 million. This will enable the bank to participate more extensively in the economic activity of the country.

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BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN

The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 4 at the British Embassy Club.

Featuring: Mrs. Najat Gibelin, beautician. Children welcome until 11 a.m.

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — Her Highness Princess Haya, daughter of His Majesty King Hussein, celebrates her third birthday Thursday.

* AMMAN. — Acting Minister of Information Sharif Pawwaz Sharaf received the Secretary General of the Arab Press Union, Mr. Salah Hafez Al Amin, Monday. They discussed the union's activities and the responsibilities of the Arab press.

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ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Venezuela's Perez winds up Middle East tour with still no compromise formula on oil price

BAGHDAD, May 2 (R). — Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez today wound up a Middle East tour during which he tried to mend serious differences between major oil-producing countries over oil prices.

President Perez, who leaves here early tomorrow for Vienna to visit the headquarters of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has had talks in the last two weeks with heads of state in Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iraq.

Well-informed sources said there was still no compromise formula to end the conflict between Saudi Arabia, the U.A.E.

and the other 11 OPEC members over prices. The dispute, the severest test so far of the organisation's unity, originated when the 11 agreed on a 10 per cent price increase from last January 1, and an additional five per cent rise from July 1.

But Saudi Arabia along with the UAE decided on only a five per cent rise from January and refused to go along with the July hike.

The sources said Saudi Arabia, which holds the key to a solution, had not shifted from its position and regarded the question of prices as primarily a political rather than an economic or financial question. Saudi Arabia wished the Arab

countries to appear moderate and to influence the United States in its attitude towards the Arab-Israeli conflict, they said.

Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who held talks with President Perez in Riyadh last week, is due to visit Washington later this month for talks with President Jimmy Carter. Senor Perez will pay a similar visit to the U.S. on June 5.

President Perez has expressed optimism that a solution to the prices question will eventually be found. He insisted the unity of OPEC would not be endangered.

Venezuela's Mines and Energy Minister, Senor Valentin Hernandez Acosta, said after a final working meeting of Venezuelan and Iraqi ministers today, that President Perez and he were satisfied with the outcome of the trip.

"For me, the most important thing is that in all the countries we have visited on this tour there is a feeling of the need for the unity and solidarity of our organisation."

"The most important thing is that for the first time in history a Venezuelan president had the opportunity to talk with frankness and sincerity with leaders

of all the founding members of OPEC," he said. The organisation was formed in 1960.

Senor Hernandez went on: "It is very interesting that the founding members want to keep this organisation strong, because we feel it is a big responsibility for our people, for the aspirations of the people of the Third World."

"We are very happy with the results of the talks. It is important that there should be this kind of contact at this level," he added.

President Perez had only one round of talks with Iraqi President Ahmad Hassan Al Bakr, soon after arriving from Teheran on Saturday.

Iraq took a hard line at the last OPEC ministerial meeting in Qatar last December by demanding a 25 per cent increase, arguing that a higher oil price was justified.

During his stay in Vienna Senor Perez will meet OPEC officials and delegates. He said this would symbolise Venezuela's solidarity with other OPEC countries which he did not visit on this trip.

Official sources said President Perez, who is travelling in a special aircraft of the Venezuelan International Airlines, Viasa, might meet Algerian leaders briefly during a refuelling stop in Algiers on his flight home to Caracas on Wednesday.

Earlier today, President Perez made an hour-long tour of the ruins of ancient Babylon, 140 kms. south of Baghdad.

He visited the site of the hanging gardens, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, and viewed archaeological treasures in the museum, accompanied by the local governor.

The president told the governor in a speech thanking him for his hospitality: "This visit of mine will signify a further coming together with this great (Iraqi) people which is carrying out a great revolution."

"I am sure that within a few years Mesopotamia will again regain the importance which it had in the past," he added.

President Perez leaves here at about 10:00 local time (7:00 GMT) tomorrow for Vienna.

Economic summit in London will put high priority on relations between developed and developing countries

GUATEMALA City, May 2 (R). — The Secretary-General of the United Nations Kurt Waldheim indicated today that relations between the developed and developing countries would be high on the agenda of this month's economic summit meeting in London.

"There is a widespread feeling that the North-South Dialogue is coming to a crossroads," Kurt Waldheim told the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America meeting here.

"We are undoubtedly going through the most critical period of the negotiations which have been conducted since 1973, when the balance of interests in the world began to shift, raising hopes of a new world order more attuned to a situation of global interdependence."

"The North-South relationship is moving closer to the top of the agenda of those governments on which so much depends," the U.N. chief said.

The dynamics of the negotiations required that a reasonable and equitable first package be achieved this year, and no package could be acceptable if it did not address itself to the commodities problem.

"The establishment of a common fund, which would provide the assurance of finance from

a central source, constitutes the focus of the conference at Geneva, which has entered a critical stage," Mr. Waldheim said, referring to the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) negotiations.

"A productive outcome of the negotiations taking place in UNCTAD is very important for the future of international economic co-operation as a whole."

Mr. Waldheim said science and technology had not been negotiated with the same intensity as commodities, but it remained of the highest priority in the search for a new international economic order.

"There is perhaps no area in which there has been a more constant consensus in the need for co-operative policies," he said.

African ministers study idea of a pan-African labour organisation

TRIPOLI, May 2 (AFP). — African labour ministers meeting here have set up a committee to study the establishment of a pan-African labour organisation, Libya's Arab Revolution News Agency (ARNA) reported Saturday night when the week-long conference ended.

A ministerial committee to examine the matter has been formed under Libyan Labour and Civil Service Secretary (Minister) Muhammad Attaher

Mahjub, who chaired the conference, ARNA said.

They approved of setting up a joint structure for the OAU and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as a follow-up to projects related to labour and the planning and execution of family planning and welfare schemes, ARNA said.

The conference asked for an extension of activities at the International Labour Studies Institute in education, research and vocational training.

OECD recommends international safety regulations for offshore oil rigs

PARIS, May 2 (R). — International regulations should be drawn up to govern the safety of offshore oil rigs, the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) recommended in a report yesterday.

Compiled before the giant spill from the Bravo Oil Rig in the North Sea, the report calls for emergency arrangements to cope with oil pollution from offshore exploration on both a national and an international basis.

Minimum training standards for workers on offshore plat-

forms should be established, and member countries should ensure that the best available construction and operation techniques and safety standards are applied on offshore rigs to prevent oil spills, the report says.

Although the oil reserves of OECD countries -- the leading industrialised nations of the non-communist world -- represent only 10 per cent of world reserves, about 40 per cent of these are offshore, the report says.

Further oil exploration in OECD countries will therefore

mainly take place offshore, and at an accelerated pace.

Procedures for checking the structure of offshore platforms are not really adequate, however, and a shortage of knowledge and experience prevents firms making the checks from issuing guarantees, the report says.

It calls for an international set of regulations for offshore structures, with a mandatory section to be incorporated into the legislation of individual countries.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices managed a small advance Monday in the New York stock exchange, where the industrial average gained a little more than four points in moderate trading.

The market reacted favourably to the announcement by the Commerce Department of a 5.2 per cent rise in factory orders in March.

Gainers led losers at the bell by a wide 891 to 477 margin as most groups of shares closed on a steady tone.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 931.22, a gain of 4.32 points; Transp at 235.34, a gain of 0.83; utilities at 109.34, a gain of 0.67, 17,970,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,520,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed generally easier after a quiet session, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was at 430.8.

Government stocks finished unchanged among longs while shorts were occasionally 1/16 easier in little interest. Some leading equities drifted a penny or so lower.

Banks were around 2p to 4p easier after news of base rate reductions while oils had falls ranging to around 13p. Mining shares closed steady to a shade higher after the higher gold bullion afternoon fixing. Australians were slightly higher.

Among companies reporting results British Home Stores and Tootal both gained 2p after results, dealers said.

Petrolina was around 450p higher in generally easier oils after the company's annual report forecasting higher profits, and news that the blowout in the Ekofisk Field had been capped, dealers added.

Shares a few pence easier by the close after occasional small gains included ICI, GEC, Beccam, Marks, Bowater and EMI while Hawker, Lucas, and Boots remained slightly higher. Lonrho gained 5p against the trend after news of its exemption from dividend restraint.

Price of gold closed in London Monday at \$148.35/oz.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* WASHINGTON, May 2 (R). — U.S. and Chinese officials in Washington are holding a quiet series of talks which the New York Times says are intended to settle financial claims between them. The State Department confirmed last night that the meetings have been going on, but would not disclose what subjects have been discussed. The Times said that settlement of the claims -- about \$0 million in blocked Chinese assets and U.S. claims of 200 million -- is necessary before the two countries can establish normal trade relations.

* KUWAIT, May 2 (AFP). — Kuwait Oil Minister Abdel Moutaleb Al Kazimi last night held out the hope of an early end to the "two-tier" oil prices system, under an arrangement involving a 10 per cent price rise for the whole of this year. Mr. Kazimi made his forecast as he left for tomorrow's Cairo meeting of the Organisations of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPPEC).

* ROME, May 2 (AFP). — The American United Broadcasting Company (UBC) has taken advantage of new Italian laws to set up a commercial private radio station which will start broadcasting to France this month, reliable sources said here today. Company officials said Radio Continental was scheduled to begin transmitting in French from 6:00 a.m. to midnight from studios in Ventimiglia, on the Italian Riviera, on May 15. But they added, "it is possible that the start will be postponed for a few days because of administrative matters."

* TEHRAN, May 2 (R). — Iran is asking for a sizeable cut in the price of two 900-megawatt nuclear power plants which France has already agreed to sell for \$2 billion, informed sources said today. The sale of nuclear power plants is a main subject of economic talks which opened here today between the French Supply and Regional Development Minister, M. Jean-Pierre Fourcade, and the Iranian Finance and Economy Minister, Mr. Houshang Ansari.

* TEL AVIV, May 2 (R). — Israel's national airline El Al cancelled five flights to Europe yesterday after maintenance men staged a go-slow strike over demands for improved working conditions. An El Al spokesman said "most of the passengers scheduled to leave were transferred to other airlines."

HORSE RACING RESULTS

THIRD RACE

FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES

Distance: 1,600 meters.

The first: ELKARAMEH, owner H.H. Sherif Jamil Ibn Naser.

Time: 1.47.4 minute.

The second: TUL, owner Khalil F. Bourgan.

The third: FAWWAR, owner Sami Yaqoub.

Win: 200 fils — 400 fils.

Twin: 400 fils — 1,500 fils.

FIFTH RACE

FOR LOCAL COUNTRY HORSES, THIRD CLASS

Distance: 1,600 meters.

The first: EL WA'I, owner Mousa Faris, Time: 1.51.6. minute.

The second: NIMIR ELFALA, owner Adel Karem Hattar.

The third: DHABHA, owner Mishref Al Ifan.

Win: 200 fils — 600 fils.

Twin: 400 fils — 1,200 fils.

FOURTH RACE

FOR BEGINNER HORSE — OWNERS PRIZE JD 2,900

Distance: 1,600 meters.

The first: FOZAN, owner H.H. Sherif Naser Ibn Jamil.

Time: 1.49. minute.

The second: YAQOUT, owner H.H. Sherif Hussein Ibn Naser.

The third: RADDAD, owner Saif H. Majall.

Win: 200 fils — 400 fils.

Twin: 400 fils — 900 fils.

SIXTH RACE

FOR SECOND CLASS HORSES

Distance: 2,000 meters.

The first: MAHBOUBAT DINA, owner Wasef Kamal Bisharat.

Time: 2.19. minute.

The second: SAAD JAMIL, owner H.H. Sherif Jamil Naser.

The third: EL AALI, owner H.H. Sherif Hussein Naser.

Win: 200 fils — 400 fils.

Twin: 400 fils — 4,000 fils.

Double T.: 400 fils — 4,000 fils.



The President of the Beirut Racing Track, Mr. Henry Pharaon, presents the winners cup, offered by him, to Sharif Naser Ibn Jamil, owner of the horse AL TAYB FAWZAN, winner of the Royal Committee's prize.

FIRST RACE

FOR BEGINNER HORSES

Distance 1,000 meters.

The first: AMIR, owner Nadim Al Dajani. Time: 1.8. minute.

The second: MIHMAS, owner Tawfiq Ksous.

The third: SAAD AYMAN owner H.H. Sherif Jamil Naser.

Win: 200 fils — 600 fils.

SECOND RACE

FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES

Distance: 1,400 meters.

The first: AJAB, owner Marwan S. Lallas. Time: 1.36.2 minute.

The second: TAMIRI, owners Bahjat & Isam Fanous.

The third: MASOUDEH, owner H.H. Sherif Hussein Ibn Naser.

Win: 200 fils — 900 fils.

Twin: 400 fils — 2,500 fils.



Salvagers may use balloons to raise the giant steamship Titanic

Sixty-five years ago the world was shocked when the steamship Titanic hit an iceberg and sank in the Atlantic. Five hundred people survived and 1,503 died. Now comes a plan to raise this sunken tomb -- which could hold a fortune in gold and jewels, as well as many skeletons.

LONDON, (WFS). — Disasters hold a morbid fascination over people. The greater the disaster to human cost the greater the fascination, and few disasters can have been as tragic or costly in human life as the sinking of the steamship Titanic, 65 years ago when it hit an iceberg. The penalty for thinking that the ship was unsinkable was the lives of 1,503 people enjoying the maiden voyage of the greatest ocean-

going liner ever built. The fascination with the disaster is as strong today as ever and has led to yet another chapter being added to the saga of the Titanic. This is a scheme to raise the vessel from its watery grave in mid-Atlantic.

The scheme is almost as incredible as the Titanic herself. All that is known of the vessel is that she lies at least 12,000 feet (that is over two miles)

deep on the ocean bed approximately 400 miles south-east of Newfoundland. Inside are the mortal remains of 1,503 people and their possessions. By the accounts of the 500 people who survived and watched the ship unsinkable into the ocean, the band and their instruments were on the promenade deck. They would have been washed away. But below decks could be a hoard in gold, silver and jewellery. Some of the first class passengers are thought to have had much of their wealth with them and the strongroom could yield as much as £80 million, so the architect of the salvage scheme, Mr. Douglas Woolley, thinks.

The problems connected with such a plan are so huge that many people in the maritime world think it is quite impossible. The necessary deep sea diving equipment, such as a bathyscaphe diving bell, has so far only been tested to a depth of two miles and, anyway, the exact location of the wreck is not known for certain. She could well lie in water deeper than 2½ miles. The famous SOS message which was radioed by the doomed ship just before she sank gave a map location, but the morning after the tragedy

another ship in the area was a Californian crew, reported sighting floating wreckage over 20 miles away from the SOS location.

A spokesman for Lloyds of London, who underwrote the original loss, describes the salvage scheme as a "non-starter" since he thinks it "pretty remote" that the actual wreckage could be located, let alone raised to the surface. But Douglas Woolley's idea is not as outlandish as some earlier ones. Six years ago somebody had the bright idea of connecting electrodes to the sunken hull of the Titanic and electrolysis the sea water inside to produce gas to bring the wreck bobbing up to the surface. Needs to say that idea died quickly, but Douglas Woolley's plan boasts solid financial backing in the shape of 24 million Deutschmarks (£6 million) which a mysterious group of West German investors has put forward.

The backers are not quite as bold as they might immediately seem, sinking DM 24 million 12,000 feet below the surface of the sea, because West German tax laws permit investors to write off their total losses against their tax within three years.

The salvage teams would be based in West Germany, for

similar reasons, but as yet there is no mention of where the exhumed ship would be taken.

Douglas Woolley has already gathered a band of like-minded Titanic enthusiasts and salvage experts around him and formed the Titanic Salvage Company. If the enormous problems, which are certain to arise in bringing the hull up to the surface in one piece, are overcome then it would be three to five years before the ship actually appeared on the surface.

The legal problems concerning insurance claims and claims to property would then begin, and experts in marine insurance on the London market say it is anyone's guess what would happen. One reason for this uncertainty is the mysterious lack of documents concerning

the legal position of the Titanic. It is almost as if fate had wanted to bury all traces of the disaster as quickly as possible.

In 1912 there was plenty of documentary evidence of who had underwritten what on the Titanic and the hull alone was insured for £1 million, a very large sum 65 years ago.

Only by fluke has one vital document survived the mysterious disappearance of all the other official papers concerning the Titanic through those 65 years. It is what is known as the "Broker's Slip" which shows that the £1 million insurance on the hull was carried by a number of insurance companies including Commercial Union and Royal Exchange. The original broker's slip has disappeared but a facsimile was printed in

a book about the history of Lloyd's of London, published in 1925.

Should the ship ever surface intact that facsimile document would probably be of great interest to the insurance companies who paid out £1 million after the disaster since they would probably have "rights of subrogation", in other words a case for being repaid.

More tricky is the question of who would have claim to the riches in the strongroom, gold, silver and jewels; descendants of the victims or the salvors?

However, whether or not the salvors and investors have claim to the rumoured treasure on board, the Titanic would certainly become a massive tourist attraction as people once again indulged their morbid fascination in disaster.

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Historian expounds on Jordan's Mamluk-Ottoman past

Jordan's geographical position has given it a unique significance in world history and has given its inhabiting tribes and citizens a special importance and a decisive role in the area. Dr. M. Adnan Bakhit, Professor of History at the University of Jordan, gives a study of Mamluk-Ottoman Jordan and some of the key factors which moulded Jordan's past.

Classical Moslem historians refer to Jordan of the 7th century as Jund al Urdun. This term was a precise translation of the Greco military term "thema" which, sometimes, appears in Arabic sources as "Al Thumu." On the order of prophet Muhammad, two campaigns were sent against this "Jund" which was mostly inhabited by Arab tribes. Although these two campaigns failed to take any part of it, they paved the way for the coming expedition at the time of the first Orthodox Caliph Abu Bakr. This Caliph sent an army under the leadership of Shurahbil b. Hasna who recorded complete success. A student of history may be struck by realising that a good number of the early distinguished Moslem leaders, to mention but few, Abu Uhayda, Shurahbil b. Hasna, Musa h. Nusayr who conquered Spain and Ja'far b. Abi Talib a cousin of the prophet are buried in Jordan.

Jordan is centrally located between the Arabian Peninsula and Greater Syria, which explains the fact that in Jordan as well as in Palestine, one can find specimens of Arab tribes since time immemorial up to the present day. It may not be too presumptuous to say that population wise these two countries are an extension of the Arabian Peninsula. They played decisive roles in the political life of the area whether under the Umayyads, the Fatimids, the Ayyubids, the Mamluks or the Ottomans. Had it not been for the Arab tribes in Jordan, the Umayyads would have lost power to their enemies the Zubayris. Was it not politics on the side of the Umayyads to build palaces, citadels and castles in the Jordanian desert to be near the centres of power?

It is not an exaggeration to say that the 13th century was a formative one in the history of "Bilad al Sham" (Greater Syria). After the repulsion of the Mongols who swept from the Far East and destroyed the Abbasid caliphate in Baghdad in 1258, the Crusaders were finally wiped out from the

Syrian Coast in 1291 by an alien Moslem element known as the Mamluks.

During the Mamluk period (1258-1516) "Bilad al Sham" administratively speaking, was divided into seven Mamlukahs (kingdoms, provinces). One of these was known as Mamlakat al Karak; which comprised most of what is usually known as Trans-Jordan, including part of northern Hejaz up to the town of Al Ula; with the town of Al Karak as its capital. At one time in 1341 the capital of the whole of the Mamluk Sultanate.

Available historical material points out that most of the administrative departments and government agencies were in existence during that period, without any serious interruption. This evidently shows that an established administration tradition was known to the people in that province. The Mamluk military administration guaranteed to the people and particularly to the pilgrims caravans a reasonable degree of stability. This was secured through a number of citadels garrisoned by stationed Mamluk soldiers. The Mamluk Sultanate in Cairo over neglected pools, such as Zizya, or paving the way en route to Mekka or keeping the bedouins in check.

With regards to the population of this province, they

were composed of town or village people and nomads. Banu Sakhr was among the tribes whose name is mentioned in the historical literature of the time; in addition to Banu Uqabah whose tribal "imarah" (lordship) was acknowledged by the Mamluk Sultanate. Religion wise, Christians represented a sizeable minority among the population.

During the period, contemporary biographical dictionaries supply us with the names of a good number of Karakis who distinguished themselves in more than one aspect of learning. The Jacobite physicians, therapist and surgeon Abu Al Faraj Yaqub b. Al Guff (1233-1285) was a native of Al Karak. He travelled to Damascus to learn medicine at the hands of the famous scholar Ibo Abi Usaybi'a. In the circle of that savant he studied with the distinguished physician Ibn Al Nafis. After graduating from Damascus, Ibn Al Guff served in Ajlun, where he practised his medical writings; many in number but here I refer to the most outstanding one in Islamic medical literature "Al Umdah fi Sinaat Al Jiraha" which was published in two volumes in India in 1937. According to the well established authority, late Professor George Sarton of Harvard University in his famous work: Introduction to the history of Sciences, Ibn Al Guff was among the very few medical doctors in the Islamic World who managed to free himself from the Greek medical tradition. He is particularly credited for his practicality in medicine as he always tried to inculcate in his students the empirical method.

His works were characterised by the spirit of being clearly written manuals.

On this occasion may I draw your attention to a recent study by a historian of medicine, Dr. Sami Hamamah of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C., on the life and works of Ibn Al Guff.

The Mamluk Sultanate (which was capable of defending the heart of the Islamic World for two centuries and a half) was, by beginning of the 16th A.D., in a very weak state. May I remind you that a small marches principally, "Imarat Gazzah" had sprung in Western Antalia by the end of the 13th c.A.D. That small principality followed the pattern in the famous formula of "challenge and response" put forth by the late Professor Toynbee in his attempt to explain the events of history and by its peculiar location, succeeded in destroying the great Byzantine Empire. Besides, it succeeded in annexing the lands of many small Turkoman principalities in Anatolia which brought her in direct contact with the Mamluk Sultanate and with a new rising Shi' Moslem power in Iran. Both the Ottomans and the Safavids in Iran were striving for the lands of the Mamluks. The Ottomans acted quickly; and on August 24, 1516, the whole of Syria fell into their hands in the battle of Marj Dabiq. When the Ottomans established themselves in Syria, they divided the country into three major provinces: Aleppo, Tripoli and Damascus. Each province was divided, on its own, into a number of "Sanjaks" or "Liwahs." The "Mamlakah" of Karak was left intact and chan-

ged name into the "Sanjak" of Karak-Shawbak.

Ajlun and its present district was made a separate "Sanjak". It is safe to say that these two "Sanjaks" comprised almost exactly what is known today as the East Bank of Jordan. The Ottomans did not distinguish themselves as fighting soldiers of first class by the standard of the time, but as administrators of high calibre, at least in their taxation system. Unsurpassed by the various Moslem states, they had the habit of making a detailed census of the population, animals, and produce from time to time to the extent that nothing escaped their attention even bee-hives, caves or water-mills. This well preserved available statistical information which goes back to the 16th century helps us to draw the following observations:

1. Almost all the towns, villages, hamlets, manors, quarters, tribes of Jordan today were in existence at least since the 18th century.
2. Most of the inhabitants of these two "Sanjaks" were settled in towns or villages or were semi nomads. Their number exceeded the number of the nomads.
3. Agriculture was their main source of income.
4. Christians constituted a sizeable minority in towns like Ajlun, Salt, Karak, and we find them even in villages.
5. The area enjoyed more stability than any time before, due to the fact that it was dotted by expanded or restored old fortresses; to name but a few, Ajlun, Salt, Karak, Shawbak, Aqaba, Hassa, Qatranah, Maan and Dhat Hajj in Northern Hejaz.

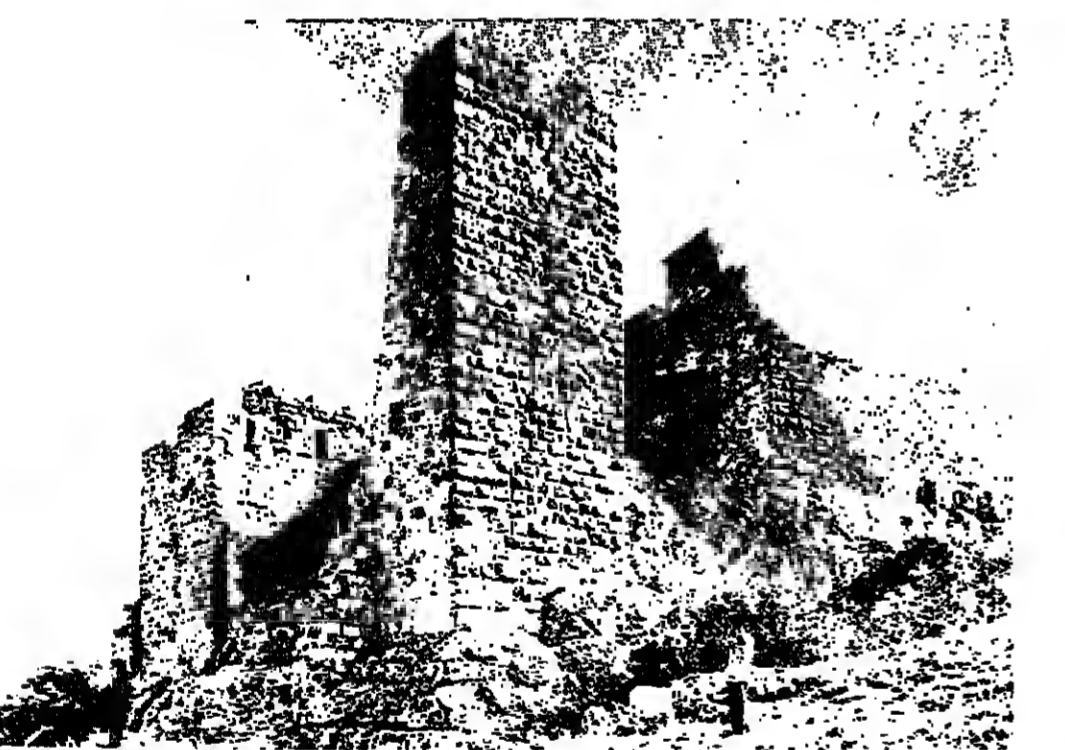
All these posts were well garrisoned by janissaries with the aim of encouraging agriculture and providing security to the pilgrims and merchants against bedouin attacks. It is worth mentioning here that the government of these two "Sanjaks" was often entrusted to a local family known as the Al Ghazzawi family which was reputed for its influence during the latter days of the Mamluks. On visiting Damascus in 1511, the head of the family, Nasir al Din Muhammad b. Said Al Ghazzawi entered the city while "Sufis" (Mystics) were beating their drums as a sign of joy; and when he went to the Umayyad Mosque to perform the Friday prayers, such was his popularity, people gathered everywhere to see him and to beg God to protect him. There was great rejoicing when peace was concluded between Nasir and the Mamluks and the safety of the pilgrims was assured. Another member of the family Qansuh played a more significant role during the 16th century. For more than thirty years, he was entrusted with the governments of Ajlun and Karak-Shawbak. He was so competent that he was, in addition, appointed for many years as amir al Hajj (commander of the pilgrimage caravan), a noble post indeed at the time. It happened that in 1585 he ran out of favour, jailed and sent to Istanbul. When he was brought before the sultan, the latter,

touched by his dignity ordered his immediate release and confirmed him in his previous posts. Five years later, he was out of favour again and went to Istanbul where the sultan reconfirmed him; but the old gentleman died in Istanbul. In appreciation of the role of this family, his son was appointed by the sultan to replace him. Drawing parallels, the role of this indigenous local powerful family was no less than the Ma'rides in Lebanon.

When reforms were imposed on the Ottoman Empire, this area came to know schools, medical care, modern judicial courts, roads, wide schemes for planting grapes and, above all, a railway connecting it with Medina and Istanbul via Damascus and Aleppo. When the Ottoman Moslem Empire became the victim of the idea of Pan-Touranism; and when the young Turks tried to Turkey the Arabs, Sherif Hussein of Mekka, a Hasani descendent of the prophet Muhammad started his Arab Revolt against the Turks. The Arab East intelligentsia joined hands with Sherif Hussein and his four sons. The Arabs of Trans-Jordan, wasted no time and immediately launched their attacks against the Turks whether stationary or retreating. From the battle of Marj Rahit in 683 to the battle of Bab Al Wad in 1947, the people of this country have played a major role in the history of this area.



Al Karak in 1341 was capital of the entire Mamluk Sultanate.



Ibn Al Guff, the Jacobite physician, was a native of Karak.

European Commission headquarters is lost in a red tape jungle

The European Commission's pristine headquarters in Brussels is renowned for its never-ending bureaucracy; reporter Gill Webster had not even got inside the building when she became ensnared in red tape.

BRUSSELS (F.T.) — The commission looked impressive. It stood, alone, at the top of the hill, on its own island. It was glowing as the sun shone on the thousands of panes of glass that make up this vast, triangular-shaped building. The coach in which we were travelling entered the concrete drive; one red and white barrier was lifted. We were halted by a second barrier, which stayed down. We saw our first EEC official and the French flowed fast and furiously. Our driver was obviously getting annoyed.

It seemed that the coach, although it had been hired by the Commission, was not actually an EEC coach, and therefore did not have EEC number plates. So we were not being allowed past the barrier. We had met our first "red tape" in the guise of a red and white post.

So we walked to the entrance, past fountains which had only enough energy to thrust the water a couple of inches -- or perhaps more correctly about 50 millimetres -- above the surface of the water. We saw bare trees which looked as though they had never sprouted a leaf. And we saw naked, cold steel flagpoles. Was this the symbol of the European Commission, the bar-

ren mother of a united Europe? But once we were inside, the lobby was elegant. In the centre was another glass triangle, enclosing two uniformed officials. They check the credentials of all visitors, and the party of journalists to which I belonged was led to the lifts, en route to our briefing.

We descended to floor minus two -- which in community jargon means the second basement -- and found ourselves in the real corridors of power. The second basement was the conference floor. It could have been the setting for a Tolstoy novel, except for the wide cracks in the imitation marble floor. The black "marble" columns, the silence and the space, created an unreal atmosphere. The enormous room also evoked thoughts about how much such a headquarters must be costing the nine.

At either end are translators' boxes. These, however, have never been used as, according to the translators' trades union, there is insufficient air in them. As it is impossible to rectify this without installing a new air-conditioning system, the rooms have only been used for common-language sessions. When multi-lingual sessions are held, the commission hires conference rooms in another building.

Halfway through the morning we had coffee in white monogrammed cups. The EEC stood out rather too boldly in red on white. The spoons, too, were initialled.

Lunchtime came and we were ushered into an "executive-type" dining room. Monogrammed plate followed monogrammed plate. Monogrammed spoons followed monogrammed knives and forks. Monogrammed glass followed monogrammed glass.

We returned through the false luxury to the conference room. At the end of the day we emerged from the glass tower, heads spinning. We had heard of the marvels of Europe and what the European Community had done. We had also been told of the Council of Ministers, where directives are passed for signature.

There, papers pile up, collect dust, and wait, sometimes for as long as five years. The commission is bogged down with its own red tape and bureaucracy.

The commission operates rather as any national civil service and employs around 6,000 people. Of these 2,224 are Belgians, 1,736 Italians, 1,584 Germans, 1,383 French, 674 British, 583 Dutch, 467 from Luxembourg, 286 Danes, and 139 Irish.

Employees in the glass tower are graded -- rather like eggs -- "A" grade being the managerial class and "D" being chauffeurs and porters. There are around 884 "A" grade translators and about 2,500 "B" grade secretaries. There are

countless "D" grade chauffeurs, porters and guards.

Unlike the commission, which is always working, the council of ministers meets irregularly. It gets together several times a week, but the same ministers do not necessarily attend. When the agricultural ministers meet, everyone knows about it; but there are also ministers for regional policy, external relations, social policy, trade, competition, industry and energy. As some meet only very occasionally, it is easy to understand how documents awaiting signature pile up in the "in" trays.

Perhaps it is expecting too much for the European Economic Community to be more efficient than a national civil service, although with the top brass available from each country, one could be forgiven this assumption. Winston Churchill's speech in 1946 and his wish to "build a United States of Europe" still has far to go. But at least, we can be confident that a lot of energy is devoted in Brussels to tying it together with red tape.

May Day demonstrations



A group of May Day demonstrators take refuge behind a pile of placards while others carry a wounded worker to safety during indiscriminate shooting reportedly by an extreme-left faction which left at least 30 dead and scores wounded.

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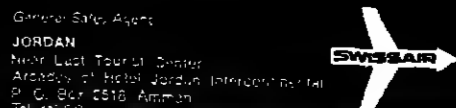
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Zurich	ar			15 50

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ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Mix some business with pleasure. New contacts could prove exciting. Don't waste time on time-wasters.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Under present planetary conditions, you are able to understand associates better. Stop being so fearful and proceed with your good ideas.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) It's possible for you to get much done now and to make big headway that has been difficult before this. Stick to good health resolutions.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Plan some time to see good friends you've been neglecting. Be more considerate of mate or loved one also.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Giving more attention to home affairs brings more harmony and comfort now. A new project you have in mind requires more complete study before you go any further with it.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Good friends could be helpful in settling problems, so gain their cooperation. Give a wise answer to those who want to argue with you and drop the matter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have a new plan in mind but it needs more study before you proceed with it. Make repairs to property that will add to its value.

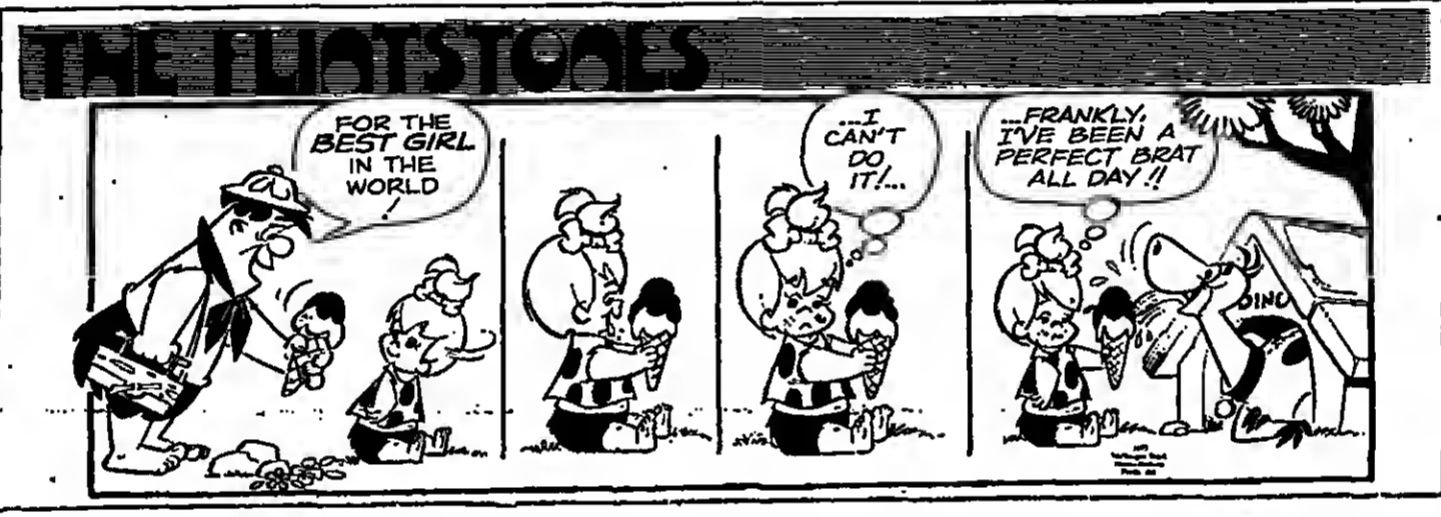
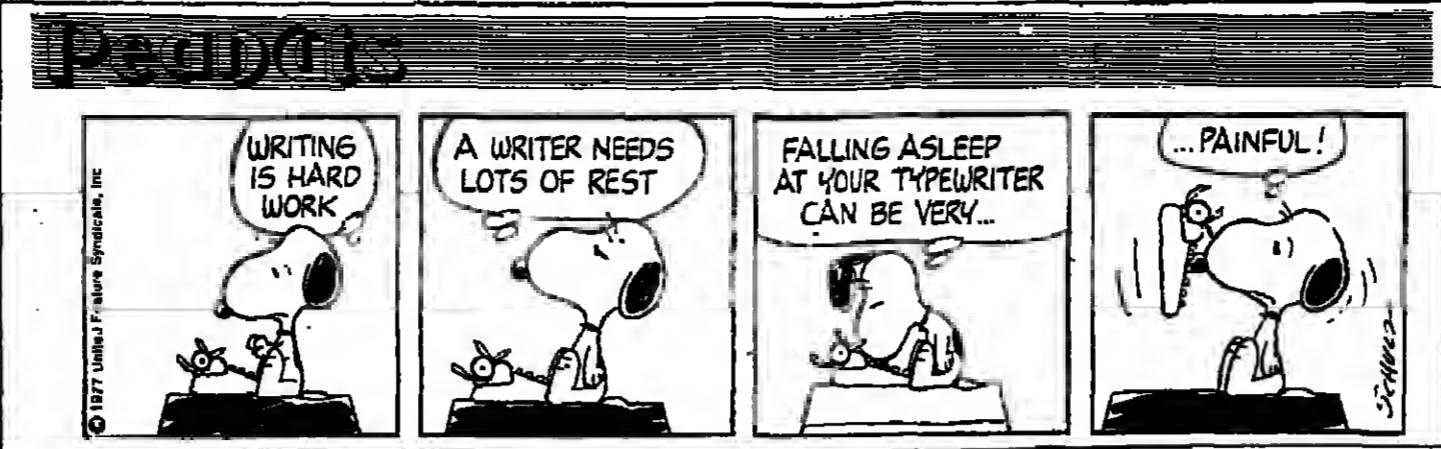
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are determined to have your own way, but be tactful if you are to get good results. Avoid social functions where you are unknown.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Do that necessary research work, but keep it confidential for good results. Have a blunt talk with a loved one and clear the air.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't be so demanding with good friends if you want their cooperation. Use diplomacy instead. You can advance a long-range plan.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study your position in your community and do something to improve it. Be careful not to do nothing that jeopardizes your credit.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have new ideas that should be studied for practicality and then put in operation to your gain. Cultivate new associates who can be helpful.



WORLD RECORDS
The fastest-moving species of land snail is probably the common garden snail. According to tests the absolute top speed is 0.0313 mph, (50.3 metres/hr.) while some species are at full stretch at 0.00036 mph, (58 cm. per hr.). This snail would thus take over 16 weeks to cover a mile, provided it didn't stop for rest or food.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1976, The Chicago Tribune

North-South vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 84
♥ J984
♦ A K Q 8 4 3
♣ 6
WEST
♠ Q 10 7 5 2
♥ 10 3
♦ 10 7 6 5
♣ 9 7
EAST
♠ J 9 3
♥ K Q 5
♦ J 9 2
♣ J 8 3 2
SOUTH
♠ A K 6
♥ A 7 6 2
♦ Void
♣ A K Q 10 5 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
4 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
6 ♣ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Five of ♣.

In his Bols Bridge Tip, World Olympiad champion Gabriel Chagas of Brazil discussed the intra-finesse—the finesse within a suit. A classic example came up in the Spigold Team Championship, premier event of the recent Summer North American Championships held in Salt Lake City.

North-South bid aggressively to reach a heart slam that was not a favorite because of the inadequacy of the trump suit. It seems that North might have made a more thoughtful rebid of four diamonds at his third turn rather than support hearts a second time. His actual bid led South to believe that he would find something better than four hearts to the jack in dummy. West led a spade against the heart slam, and the declarer, Marv Dauer of Los Angeles, possessed the necessary technique to bring home his optimistic contract. Since it was likely he needed a ruff in dummy as an entry for a trump play towards his hand, he realized that trumps would have to divide 3-2 to give him any chance at all. Even then, holding his trump losers to one was not an easy task.

Declarer won the opening spade lead to his hand, and led a heart to the eight. West wooed the queen and returned a spade, taken by declarer's remaining boomer. There were two ways to limit his trump losers to one—either to find East with K-Q bare in hearts, or with K-Q-x. Since West appeared to have long spades, and therefore fewer hearts, declarer crossed to dummy with a spade ruff and led the jack of hearts. This smothered West's ten and the defenders' potential second trump trick disappeared. When East played low on the jack and it held the trick, declarer took care to cash dummy's high diamonds for three club discards, and the ambitious slam rolled home.

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An advertisement in the Jordan Times will be seen by some 10,000 people in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Don't you have anything to say to them?
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TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE
SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON: THE SLAVE SHIP
Family tries to save slave who escaped from ship and keep him on the island.

PHYLLIS: OFF THE BEACH
Phyllis does her best to help vagabond regain a semblance of a normal life.

GIBBSVILLE:
A new one hour colour series about a young reporter working in a small town newspaper and his efforts to convey to his readers a true picture of the events surrounding him.

OUT AND ABOUT
Captain's Cabin
The fashionable restaurant for you. Ghadaya Bank Street. Tel. 2167. AQARA. Open for lunch & dinner. Speciality Italian cuisine. Live music and dancing.

CHINESE RESTAURANT
First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabel Amman, near the Ablyah School or CMS. Tel. 36965. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service - order by phone.

THE DIPLOMAT
First Circle, Jabel Amman. Tel. 25682. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialities.

The Page SEVEN Feature Photo

Maggie Fitzgibbon as Baroness Lembury in "White Lies", by Peter Shaffer, at the Shaw Theatre in London's Euston Road.

GRAFFITI
MIDDLE AGE
WHEN HUSBANDS
DON'T GET
ANY YOUNGER
AND WIVES
DON'T GET
ANY OLDER

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ENAKO
RAYPH
TELKAN
CRAFTO

Print answer here:

Sunday's Jumbles: TYPED FLORA COWARD SHANTY
Answer: You can also find this on the starboard side, oddly enough - A "PORT" HOLE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1. Paver's mallet
2. Discarded
3. Feminine name
4. Grape
5. Surrounded
6. Candy
7. American journalist
8. High mountain
9. Of a penitential period
10. Philsofers
11. Land measure
12. The I

13. Contorted
14. Council
15. Palestine plain
16. Yale
17. Move smoothly
18. Jewels
19. Stool-pigeon
20. Soother
21. Buskin
22. Century plant
23. Eternity
24. Herb
25. Wind instrument
26. Meshwork
27. Great amount

28. Nonpareil
29. Swellings
30. White yam
31. Suter
32. Accumulate
33. Disregard
34. Pleasant
35. Late Earl of Avon
36. Porter
37. Peasod
38. Dry
39. Past
40. Sparkle
41. Hesitates
42. Goal
43. John or Jane
44. Understood
45. Caucho
46. Yield
47. Fall behind
48. Box
49. Legend
50. Indian
51. mahogany
52. Payable
53. Verily

Par time 20 min. AP Newsclutives

200,000 Egyptians may be expelled from Libya

TRIPOLI, May 2 (R). — The Libyan Jamahiriyah (formerly Libya) will decide this month whether to expel more than 200,000 Egyptian workers, Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi has said here, according to the Arab Revolution News Agency, ARNA.

Anglican, Orthodox leaders disagree on women priests issue

GENEVA, May 2 (R). — The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Donald Coggan, arrived here today for a three-day visit and talks with leaders of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches.

Indonesia votes

JAKARTA, May 2 (R). — Millions of Indonesians voted today in elections for a new parliament, as well as for regional and provincial legislative assemblies.

The turnout in the elections -- the third in 31 years of independence -- was reported to be heavy in Jakarta and provincial capitals. Results are not expected to be known for several days.

The government at first said the National Elections Centre here would be able to give voting trends tonight. However, it announced this afternoon that reliable indications of the outcome would not be available before Wednesday.

Delays in collating the final results are inevitable because of the vastness of the island chain, which stretches over 5,150 kms.

Tight security was in force for the elections. In Jakarta alone, 7,000 police and 30,000 militiamen were on duty and the capital's army garrison was reinforced.

But no incidents had been reported by early tonight. All three political groupings contesting the elections support President Suharto, who became head of state after crushing a Communist coup attempt in 1965.

In the 1971 general election, the ruling Golkar (Functional

There are more than 200,000 Egyptians working in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Hundreds have returned home in the last few days following termination of their contracts. (In Cairo the official Middle East News Agency last week quoted returning workers as saying the Libyan authorities had gathered thousands of Egyptians in special camps in preparation for departure to Egypt.)

Col. Qadhafi accused Egyptian President Anwar Sadat of exploiting Egyptian workers and said he had recruited some of them for sabotage operations in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, ARNA said.

Peres dismisses report on military deficiencies

TEL AVIV, May 2 (AFP). — Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres today brushed aside suggestions of manpower and equipment shortages in the Israeli army.

Mr. Peres told Knesset that all deficiencies noted in a report by the State Controller were either already corrected or being dealt with immediately.

He was responding as defence minister to a call by the opposition Likud Party for an emergency session to discuss the report, which criticised "deficiencies in the upkeep and stockpile of military hardware."

He said that military manpower had grown 40 per cent over the past three years, while the amount of equipment had increased 60 per cent. The number of tanks, he said, was up 50 per cent, the number of motorised vehicles up 40 per cent, troop carriers up 1,000 per cent, aircraft up 50 per cent and sea-going units, up 85 per cent.

Charging that today's debate was motivated by political concerns, he said there was no justification for its taking place. Knesset was only half full for the exchange, during which rightist opposition leader Menahem Begin criticised Mr. Peres for discounting the report rather than dealing with the problems it noted.

Rent increases spark new protests in Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG, May 2 (R). — Police used tear-gas today to disperse a crowd of about 200 coloureds (people of mixed race) demonstrating against recent house rent increases.

The protest was held outside council offices in Eldorado Park township on the city's southern outskirts one eyewitness said. The crowd, mainly women and children, scattered when the tear-gas was used and some were knocked over and trampled.

Police reinforcement with stun guns and riot shields, arrived soon afterwards.

Rents in the coloured area were roughly doubled last month.

Proposed rent rises in the black township of Soweto sparked protest marches there last week leading to clashes in which three students were wounded when police opened fire with revolvers. After the Soweto demonstration, the government postponed the rent rise for a month but said they would have to be enforced from the beginning of June if money was not available from another source.

JOHANNESBURG, May 2 (AFP). — Namibia's main African nationalist movement SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation) has reaffirmed its minimum demands in return for participating in future elections -- South African military withdrawal and voting on a non-ethnic basis. The movement's leaders restated the demands in interviews published here today in the wake of three days of talks last week between South African Prime Minister John Vorster and envoys of five Western countries -- the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada.

NEW YORK, May 2 (R). — The Vietnamese government has rejected offers from governments and Asian guerrilla movements for the huge stockpile of American weapons left over from the war, the New York Times reported yesterday. The newspaper quoted State Department and Pentagon sources in Washington for the report and said the equipment was estimated to be worth \$5 billion.

TEL AVIV, May 2 (R). — Israeli acting Prime Minister and Defence Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday he was prepared to visit France after the parliamentary elections here next month. Mr. Peres' aides said the acting premier was replying to an invitation extended by French Minister for Culture and Environment, Michel d'Ornano when the French minister called on him yesterday. The two leaders spent some time discussing the Middle East situation and mutual relations, aides said.

CAIRO, May 2 (R). — President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania will visit Egypt this month, the Middle East News Agency said last night. It said the visit will start on May 11 but did not say how long it will last.

STUTTGART, May 2 (AFP). — Bader-Meinhof urban guerrilla Gudrun Ensslin, sentenced to life imprisonment on Thursday, abandoned her four-week-old hunger strike on Saturday and called on other imprisoned leftist militants to do likewise.

Collapse of Manila peace talks blamed on Marcos

MANILA, May 2 (R). — Muslim rebels today blamed the government for the collapse last Saturday of talks here aimed at settling Muslim insurgency in the southern Philippines.

In a press statement, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) which has been negotiating with the government for an autonomous Muslim region in the south, said the talks collapsed because of "the duplicity and insincerity of President (Ferdinand) Marcos and his government."

Representatives of both the

FRENCH NATIONALS TO BE EVACUATED AFTER POLISARIO ATTACK IN NORTH MAURITANIA

NOUAKCHOTT, May 2 (R). — Mauritania and French authorities have decided to evacuate French women and children from a mining town 800 kms. north of here after an attack by Polisario guerrillas yesterday in which two French people were killed.

The women and children among 700 French nationals at Zouerrat would be evacuated by special French transport planes, according to reports reaching Paris.

Six French people were seized in the raid on Zouerrat, an important iron-mining town with 20,000 inhabitants.

Norwegian oil policy reconsidered in light of blow-out on Bravo

STAVANGER, Norway, May 2 (R). — Norway yesterday began reconsidering its oil policy and assessing damage done by a rogue oil rig which gushed 20,000 tonnes of oil into the North Sea before it was plugged on Saturday.

Experts here said the political repercussions of the blow-out on the rig Bravo were likely to last long after the oil slicks had disappeared from the North Sea.

Minister of Industries Bjartmar Gjerde has already announced that Norway's off shore oil industry will reconsider its future policy in the light of the eight-day Bravo blow-out.

Yesterday a prominent Norwegian government official, who asked not to be named, said the mishap would delay consideration in Norway of further oil prospecting.

Norwegian officials yesterday reported they had skimmed 750 tons of pure oil from the sea since Texan specialist Red Adair and his team pinched off the gush.

Mr. Hans Christian Bugge, who headed a Norwegian government action team set up in Stavanger to deal with the mishap, said that with continued good weather it would only be a matter of days before the denser flecks of oil had been scooped up. "I think we have been lucky," he added.

Experts forecast that the oil slick, covering 2,850 sq. kms., would be mostly dissipated by the wind and currents and would not cause the major pollution crisis that had been feared at one stage.

The American Phillips Petroleum Company, which operates the rogue oil rig in the Ekofisk field, yesterday reported the situation was under control.

Its manager in Norway, Mr. Gordon Goering, said 26 men were aboard the rig engaged in cleaning the platform, checking the equipment, and making an assessment of how the well was to be handled in future.

New Israeli missile boat announced

TEL AVIV, May 2 (R). — Israel is completing work on the prototype for a new light-weight missile patrol boat which it expects to export, the government-owned Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) said on Saturday.

The aluminium boat is designed to carry two Israeli-made Gabriel sea-to-sea missiles, as well as machine guns, IAI said.

It said the 22 metre boat could maintain a speed of 35 knots and had a range of 1,300 kms.

Israel Television reported that the navy is awaiting the outcome of tests before ordering any of the new boats, but it said several foreign countries had expressed an interest in purchasing the boat after inspecting plans and work so far.

WHO meet discusses malnutrition

GENEVA, May 2 (R). — The 150-state World Health Organisation (WHO) opens its three-week annual session here today with malnutrition as the major theme.

The assembly, with more than 60 issues on its agenda, will devote a special technical debate to nutrition problems.

In an issue of the regular WHO magazine, timed to coincide with the assembly, Dr. Moises Behar of a WHO nutrition unit described malnutrition as a man-made disease.

It was not so much a problem of food scarcity as of uneven distribution between countries and within countries," he said.

But lack of food is not the sole cause of industrial malnutrition, Dr. Leonardo Mata of the University of Costa Rica said in another article. Food habits, traditions and beliefs and the education mothers have received play a strong part, he reported.

WHO Director General Halfdan Mahler of Denmark added: "Malnutrition is both one of the consequences of social injustice and one of the factors contributing to its maintenance."

In a report on the work of the WHO, Dr. Mahler accused many organisation members of failing to put the principles of justice into effect in their health services.

"Many member states still apply double standards -- those they vote for in the world health assembly and those they use in relation to their own health service," he said.

"Many countries, developed and developing, still allocate up to three-quarters of their health expenditure to highly-sophisticated... care of individual patients in the capital cities, leav-

ing large parts of their populations under-served, if they are served at all," he commented.

The assembly, which is to debate his report, will also consider a proposed \$165 million working budget for the United Nations specialised agency next year.

Oxford Dictionary will alter some anti-Arab definitions

LONDON, May 2 (R). — Britain's Oxford University Press (OUP) is making some changes in the next edition of its Concise Oxford Dictionary after approaches by a pro-Arab organisation based in London.

In the current edition of the dictionary Jerusalem is defined as "the Israel, holy city of Christians, Jews and Muslims." The next edition, to be published in August, will call it "holy city, west of River Jordan."

The definition of a Palestinian includes the words "seeking to displace Israelis from Palestine." This will be changed to "native or inhabitant of Palestine: Or, pertaining to, or connected with Palestine."

The changes were sought by the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding. A council spokesman, Mr. Alan George, said the present definitions had provoked angry comment in Cairo newspapers.

A spokesman for the publishers said: "We try to be impartial and the changes will be made to that end. We now believe the definition of 'Palestinian' was less than adequate because one side in this tragic conflict believes it to be not impartial."

The spokesman added that the Arabs maintained that it was not their aim to displace Israelis from the territory called Palestine.

On the changed definition of Jerusalem, the spokesman said the compilers would give it a purely geographical description.

"I am sure the Israelis will be displeased about this but we are admitting an error in terms of impartiality," the spokesman added.

Time magazine publishes 1952 "Soviet plans" to "invade" West Europe

NEW YORK, May 2 (R). — A former high level Czechoslovak official has told Time magazine that he has brought 14,000 pages of secret communist documents to the West.

The documents include evidence of plans made in 1952 by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin for a possible invasion of Western Europe, Dr. Karel Kaplan said in an interview published today.

Dr. Kaplan was a supporter of former Czechoslovak Communist Party chief Alexander Dubcek, whose brief liberal administration was ended by the Soviet-led invasion of the country by Warsaw Pact countries in August 1968.

Arrested that year, Dr. Kaplan was expelled from the Communist Party in 1970 and left Czechoslovakia last year. He now lives in Munich, West Germany.

Time said today that Western intelligence sources confirm that he once had access to the type of secret documents he says have been brought out of Czechoslovakia since his departure.

Some of the documents are scheduled to be published in the Italian magazine Panorama.

There were few details given in any of Dr. Kaplan's revelations and no explanation of how he was able to accumulate the documents and have them sent to West Germany.

Of the 1952 plan by the late Soviet dictator to invade Western Europe, Dr. Kaplan claims that Mr. Stalin ordered a shift from defensive to offensive military strategy, thus preparing the Soviet armed forces for a European invasion.

Dr. Kaplan says his cache includes evidence of pre-1948 communist "conspiracies", as well as 30 years of secret documentation from the files of the Czechoslovak Politburo, the Party Central Committee, the State Planning Commission, the trade unions and the secret police.

Nixon "humbled" in T.V. Watergate probe

NEW YORK, May 2 (R). — Former President Richard Nixon was humbled and shattered trying to defend his role in the Watergate scandal before the penetrating questioning of Britain's television interviewer David Frost, Time magazine said today.

Both sides said they hoped the ceasefire reached last December following a preliminary agreement in Tripoli, Libyan Jamahiriyah, would hold at least until the Islamic ministerial conference on May 16.

In Kuala Lumpur, Libyan Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul Salam Al Tureiki, who took part in the Islamic Conference delegation, said today the Moslem problem in the Philippines could not be solved by killing or bloodshed.

But he could not hide the fact that the 42-nation Islamic Conference and a great number of countries in the Third World were deeply concerned with the problem as it touched the Islamic faith in the southern Philippines, he told a news conference.

The Philippines government has repeatedly denied that it is preparing for war against the Moslems and has blamed the MNLF and the Islamic Conference negotiators for the breakdown of the talks.

Americans will watch the first of four 90-minute interviews -- sponsored by a dog food company, a manufacturer of weed killer and Hilton Hotels -- on Wednesday night. No matter how damaging the revelations Mr. Nixon cannot be prosecuted as former President Gerald Ford pardoned him for any crime he committed in office.

Time said Mr. Nixon was stunned when Mr. Frost cited a tape of Feb. 14, 1973 -- "the cover-up" is the main ingredient... that's where we gotta cut our losses... the president's losses are to be cut on the cover-up deal."

Throughout, Mr. Nixon insisted there was nothing in what he had said to sustain a case that he had committed a criminal act.

Frost: "But, surely, in all you've said you have proved exactly that was the case, that there was a cover-up of criminal activity... you knew that, in fact, criminals would be protected?"

Mr. Nixon Christian Bugge, who headed a Norwegian government action team set up in Stavanger to deal with the mishap, said that with continued good weather it would only be a matter of days before the denser flecks of oil had been scooped up. "I think we have been lucky," he added.

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Nixon: "Now just a moment... but Frost cuts him off saying "period".

Mr. Nixon, a one-time practising lawyer, tried to assert that U.S. law requires a motive to prove criminal intent.

Frost: "The law states that when intent and foreseeable consequences are sufficient, motive is completely irrelevant."

Time said Mr. Nixon was subdued at this point and fell silent.

He was "a somewhat forlorn figure who contrasts sharply with the forceful debater in later programmes in the series," Time said.

The later programmes, showing Frost questioning Mr. Nixon on his career, foreign policy and domestic affairs, were recorded "before" the probing Watergate interview.

Time said Mr. Nixon admitted that it was untrue, as he had previously claimed, that he was trying to protect national security by ordering the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to drop certain lines of inquiry into the Watergate burglary during the hectic days of his 1972 campaign for re-election as president.

Time said the interviews were a "highly emotional encounter in which many Nixons are brought to the surface. He is alternately haughty, patronising, incisive, rambling, peevish -- and finally subdued."

The newspaper, Al Siyassa, quoted diplomatic sources as saying the countries are Iraq, the Libyan Jamahiriyah (formerly Libya), Algeria, South Yemen and Somalia.

Four Palestinian commando organisations have already formed a Rejection Front and the newspaper said in a front-page report that the front's Secretary General, Dr. Samir Ghosheh, had twice toured the five countries.

According to the newspaper, it had been agreed that Iraq, the Libyan Jamahiriyah and Algeria would meet late this month to prepare for the five-nation meeting to be held in June.

The newspaper did not say where the meetings would be held but said they would be attended by a Palestinian delegation.

Britain reinforces troops to face Protestant strike in N. Ireland

BELFAST, May 2 (R). — Britain was today flying a further 600 troops into Northern Ireland to stiffen security forces, already on full alert for a general strike by Protestants set for midnight tonight.

Indications grew, however, that the strike could be a flop, and there was speculation that it might be postponed or even called off if a face-saving formula could be found.

Such a result could emerge from a meeting later today between British Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr. Roy Mason, and the strike leaders, the Rev. Ian Paisley and Mr. Ernest Baird.

"I am going to get an agreement with him," Mr. Baird said, adding: "Mr. Mason will have to put forward something concrete."

It was possible, observers said, that strong assurances by Mr. Mason could satisfy the strike leaders' demand for an all-out British army offensive to wipe out the Irish guerrillas based in the Catholic ghettos of this British-ruled province.

On the other demand, for a return to local rule giving power to the pro-British Protestant majority, the British government has consistently refused to yield.

Foodshop shelves were bare in the province today and some garages ran dry as housewives and motorists stocked up on items from tinned milk to candles.

A split in the Protestant community over the strike widened, with Mr. Thomas Passmore, chief of the Belfast Protestant Orange Lodge, stating he had been threatened with death for saying that the strike lacked wide support.

Many Protestants fear that a general strike would deal a savage blow to Northern Ireland's limping economy and some Protestant leaders have condemned the plans.

Fears of intimidation of workers are widespread and local reports say some shopkeepers have already been visited by "heavies" and warned not to open.

But with vital sectors of the Protestant workforce already resolved not to strike, notably power station and shipyard men, Mr. Paisley warned bitterly that if Protestants did not support him "my voice will not be heard again."

Mr. Mason flew 600 extra troops from England over the weekend and another 600 going in today will boost troop strength in the province to around 20,000.

Pledging British determination to withstand the strike, Mr. Mason said troops and specialists would maintain vital services if necessary.

British officials were hopeful that the stoppage would get limited support and would not resemble the highly successful 1974 Protestant strike which put an end to an experiment in Catholic-Protestant power sharing.

But the British have made careful plans to prevent any battling between Protestant street formations and Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas who have sworn to break the strike.

Kuwaiti paper says 5 Arab states will form rejection front

KUWAIT, May 2 (R). — A Kuwaiti daily newspaper said yesterday that five Arab states would meet shortly to discuss the possible formation of an inter-state rejection front.

The idea, it said, was to stand against Middle East peace settlements as envisaged by the United States and other countries.

The newspaper, Al Siyassa, quoted diplomatic sources as saying the countries are Iraq, the Libyan Jamahiriyah (formerly Libya), Algeria, South Yemen and Somalia.

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